

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will allow a further supplementary, but I would bring it to the attention of hon. members that I see at least 30 members and there are only five minutes remaining in the question period.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the minister of fisheries. Is the minister giving any thought to implementing the scientific and technical arm of NATO in order to bring this serious problem of overfishing to the attention of member countries in the hope of alleviating this problem?

Mr. Davis: Yes, Mr. Speaker, but I do not think it will have much effect on the Russians, the Poles and the East Germans who are not members of NATO.

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INDUSTRY**BOOK PUBLISHING—ONTARIO ROYAL COMMISSION—PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT—COMPLEMENTARY ACTION**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Did the government of Ontario consult the federal government before it appointed a royal commission to investigate the problems of the Canadian book publishing industry, and does the federal government intend to take any complementary action relative to this and other recent related developments?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Not me, Mr. Speaker, but the study done by my department on this industry was provided to the Ontario government. We are still looking at this industry and have set up an interdepartmental group to look at ideas that could be developed to help the printing industry. I might add that one of the things that could be done is for the United States to amend its copyright act which would be very helpful to the Canadian industry, and in this regard a number of representations have been made by the government of Canada to the government of the United States.

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HOUSING**RENT SUBSIDIZATION PROGRAMS**

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for housing and urban affairs. When the minister speaks of giving the citizen the opportunity to choose, does he mean that his department is considering giving more importance to rent subsidization programs? If so, when are such programs to be announced?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): As I indicated a few minutes ago, Mr. Speaker, we have offered to all provinces federal participation in rent supplements, under which they could acquire existing accommodation under a bulk lease or purchase arrange-

[Mr. Crouse.]

ment. This would obviate the necessity for producing new housing accommodation. Rent supplement has been a standing offer for at least the last two years, an offer which has not been taken up by any province to any extent. One of the problems is that adequate housing stock in that general area which would be available to people of a certain income does not exist. So we have to produce stock as well as make the offer of rent supplementation.

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AIR CANADA**DISCUSSION OF SONIC BOOM POLICY WITH TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Did Air Canada discuss with the transport department the government's policy on sonic booms before it placed orders for a number of very costly supersonic transport planes?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the latter part of the hon. member's question is incorrect; orders have not been placed in that sense of the word. Air Canada has purchased what is known in the industry as a queue position. It has made no firm decision on the purchase of SST's, nor is it likely to do so for some time to come. Therefore the rest of the question is not relevant in that sense. But I will say to the hon. member that Air Canada has held discussions with us regarding the so-called sonic boom problem and, in fact, within approximately the last week has decided to make a contribution, together with the Ministry of Transport, to further research on an international basis on the matter of the sonic boom and related problems.

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POLLUTION**PRECAUTIONS FOLLOWING DERAILMENT OF RAILWAY CARS CONTAINING SULPHURIC ACID**

Mr. Gaétan J. Serré (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry relating to a question which I asked yesterday concerning the derailment of sulphuric acid tank cars near Sudbury, and the resultant threat from the spilling of this acid into the Pickerel River. Can the minister advise whether the situation is now under control?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker, it is under control.

[Later:]

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to one directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry earlier. In view of the apparent conflict in the reports which have appeared as to the real danger of pollution as a result of the train derailment, can the minister tell the House how long the danger will exist?