

Inquiries of the Ministry

have agreed on the abandonment of the safeguards in the autopact, could the minister inform the House that it is the Canadian position that one of the objectives of the autopact is free trade in automobiles?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, one of the immediate effects of the automobile agreement, which was criticized in many parts of the House, was to open up a great deal of trade between Canada and the United States. The principal objection of the United States was that they felt we got a great deal more advantage out of it than they did. Perhaps, my hon. friend agrees but I do not.

• (4:10 p.m.)

AUTO PACT—ALLEGED AGREEMENT TO ABANDON SAFEGUARDS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): A supplementary question. Having received no answer at all, I ask the minister if it is government policy, as reported in Washington today, that the Canadian government is willing to give up the existing safeguards on the Canada-U.S. automotive agreement.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Put in that way, Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

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UNITED NATIONS

CANADIAN POSITION ON REACTIVATION OF JARRING COMMISSION AND SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the United Nations General Assembly debate, is the Canadian delegation taking any initiatives which might lead to a reactivation of the Jarring commission which might bring about a situation in the Middle East whereby the Security Council resolution 242 might become something close to an actuality?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is the objective of the Canadian government to support resolution 242. We would be very happy if Ambassador Jarring could resume his activities. This is the general purpose of our activities in New York at the present time. However, as the hon. member knows, there are many difficulties in the way.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

REFERENCE TO SUPREME COURT OF RIGHTS OF INDIAN WOMEN MARRIED TO NON-INDIANS—COSTS OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): My question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Earlier this afternoon there was an announcement by the Minister of Justice regarding a decision handed down by the Federal Court respecting the rights and privileges of Indian women married to non-Indians. The minister said

[Mr. Broadbent.]

this decision will be referred to the Supreme Court. Can the minister assure the House that the costs of legal counsel chosen by the Indians will be taken care of by the department?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to consider the hon. member's suggestion.

[English]

[Later:]

RIGHTS OF INDIAN WOMEN MARRIED TO NON-INDIANS—REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF RETROACTIVE ASPECT OF COURT DECISION

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): A supplementary question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Since a decision was handed down some time ago by the Federal Court respecting the rights of Indian women married to non-Indians, can the minister say whether any study is being made by his department to give consideration to the retroactive aspects of this for the protection of Indian women who married non-Indians in the past and lost their Indian rights?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the consequences of the ruling of the Federal Court of Appeal and we are waiting for the Supreme Court decision before taking any action. It is obvious that radical changes will take place in the administration of my department if the Supreme Court upholds the decision of the Federal Court of Appeal.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EXTENSION BY MASSACHUSETTS OF FISH PROTECTION AND POLLUTION BOUNDARY 200 MILES SEAWARD—CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): My question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the government studied legislation approved by the State of Massachusetts to move their fishing protection boundaries 200 miles eastward, as promised by the minister on November 25? Can the minister say what indication this action will have on Canada?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As I said in reply to the question at the time, Mr. Speaker, we are asking the United States state department what they think about this. We have not yet had a reply.

FISHERIES TREATY WITH NORWAY—REQUEST FOR TABLING

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): My question is to the Minister of Fisheries. It is related to the previous question asked by the hon. member for St. John's West. Can the minister say whether on July 15 the federal gov-