

FISHERIES

REPORTED ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCESSING PLANTS ON FRENCH ISLANDS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs. It was announced in *Le Devoir* on January 5, 1967 that American interests plan to build two fish processing plants on the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. The French islands could therefore serve as landing bases for the American fishing fleet, and I would ask the minister whether this proposal was put forth by officials of his department in an effort to secure an agreement on the 1964 legislation calling for a 12-mile fishing limit off Canada's coast?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, sir.

Mr. Crouse: A supplementary question. Would the minister tell the house what progress is being made toward establishing the geographical co-ordinates from which base lines can be drawn and the 12-mile limit established, as called for in the legislation passed in 1964?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is asking a very general question which is asking for a general statement of policy. I do not think that can be permitted at this time.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

AMENDMENT TO LAND ACT WITH RESPECT TO PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs; I apologize for not giving him written notice. Is the minister giving consideration to introducing amendments to the Veterans Land Act, or possibly to the regulations, to provide for changing circumstances in the purchase of properties for veterans, and also to changing the regulations with respect to the administration's relationship with the real estate fraternity?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there are no proposals to amend the act. Constant reviews of the regulations are being made. From time to time we do amend them and some of them are under current study. I think that if the hon. member would let me know the specific area

Inquiries of the Ministry

in which he is interested I could make inquiries and reply to him more directly, if that is satisfactory.

AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY AS TO POSITION OF DEPUTY MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Is there a deputy minister of agriculture at the present time? If so, what is his name?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is asking for statistical information, which should not be asked for at this time.

Mr. Harkness: With all respect, Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of some importance and urgency not only to members but to agricultural organizations and the entire farming community. They would like to know whether there is a deputy minister and, in particular, who he is. If there is no deputy minister of agriculture at the present time, they would like to know who is the acting minister so that they will know whom to contact with respect to a number of matters.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps it would be easier if I allowed the minister to answer the question.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, Dr. Barry is still acting deputy minister of agriculture, as well as acting as chairman of the Canadian Dairy Commission until such time as his successor is appointed.

Mr. Harkness: Then, Mr. Speaker, I must protest against the minister having misinformed the house the day before yesterday. On January 9 I asked him this question, as reported at page 11537 of *Hansard*:

Is Dr. S. C. Barry still the deputy minister of agriculture and, if not, when did he cease to occupy that position?

The minister's answer was:

Dr. Barry is now the chairman of the new dairy commission.

Quite evidently the minister gave us the impression, and I think gave the country the impression, that Dr. Barry was no longer the deputy minister of agriculture. I think the minister owes the house an apology.

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, the statement found in *Hansard* is perfectly correct; he is chairman of the Canadian Dairy Commission.