

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister can answer a question after the oral question period only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, tests were made at Golden Eagle Canada Limited where the oil obtained from Roumania is stored and the results showed that the sulphur content is .14 and .16. This means that the oil can be used as is, for it has a very low sulphur ratio.

[English]

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order—

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Fraser Valley West is rising on a point of order but my understanding is that since the minister was replying to a question asked by the hon. member for Calgary Centre and the hon. member has risen on a point of order, his point of order must be on the same subject. After that I will hear all points of order that hon. members may wish to submit for the consideration of the Chair.

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, my point of order relates to an answer given by the Minister of Supply and Services a question was asked in respect of Roumanian and Caribbean oil, and the minister did not confirm that the Caribbean oil does not contain sulphur in excess of Canadian clean air requirements. The reason for this is very simple. The contract supplied by his department does not contain any grade requirement—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is an interesting point of order but I find it difficult to relate that point of order to the Standing Order. It seems to me that this is debate. Perhaps the minister and the hon. member might like to pursue the matter on Monday, or outside the House in the meantime. The hon. member for Fraser Valley West.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ACTION TO ASSIST CAPTAIN OF "GREENPEACE III" TO OBTAIN DAMAGES FROM FRANCE

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I will not try your patience unduly. I have noted that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has been attempting since Wednesday to reply to a question I addressed to the Prime Minister on Tuesday. I wonder whether the minister might be permitted, with the agreement of the House, to reply to my question?

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the question which was put to me by the hon. gentleman related to the *Greenpeace* and the action that the Canadian government has taken. I would

Fisheries Development Act

inform him that on March 26 I wrote to the solicitor for Mr. McTaggart and informed him that the Canadian ambassador in Paris is making representations to the appropriate French authorities with a view to attempting once again to settle Mr. McTaggart's claim. Should discussions between representatives of our two governments fail to materialize or fail to bring about a reasonable settlement, subject to Mr. McTaggart's wishes the Canadian government will then formally espouse the claims arising out of both the 1972 and the 1973 *Greenpeace III* incidents.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT ACT

AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR PAYMENTS FOR MODIFICATION AND CONVERSION OF VESSELS

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (for the Minister of Fisheries) moved that Bill C-2, to amend the Fisheries Development Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am moving the second reading motion on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) who is unavoidably absent from the House today. I am pleased to have the opportunity to make the second reading speech because there is an extensive fishery in my own electoral district. There are many communities that are almost wholly dependent upon a flourishing fishing industry.

● (1200)

Hon. members will recall that the substance of this amendment was discussed in the standing committee in the last session. It was only by inadvertence that the amendment that was agreed upon in the committee was not made in the House when the bill itself was approved. The purpose of this bill is really to do a good deed that was wanted to be done in the last session. Its purpose is to give authority to the government to provide financial support for the conversion and modification of fishing vessels.

As far as the legislation itself is concerned, the amendment is very short and consists of only a few words. However, the effect of the amendment on the fishery could be considerable. Under the existing fishing vessel construction program now administered by the Department of the Environment, through its Fisheries and Marine Service, subsidies may only be paid for new vessel construction. The purpose of the amendment is to authorize the Fisheries and Marine Service to make additional payments under the Fisheries Development Act to owners of small or intermediate size vessels to assist with the cost of an authorized conversion or modification. The change that is being sought in this amendment does, in a sense, reflect the changing pattern of Canada's fisheries.

There is every reason to believe we are on the threshold of a most important era in the development of Canada's