

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Farha, Canadian citizens of Lebanese extraction, contended that they were called in on the instructions of the Lebanese ambassador, M. Edmond Khayat, and intimidated with reference to their political activities with the threat of some misfortune or ill treatment being meted out to their families which are still in Lebanon? I want to ask the minister whether he has taken any action with respect to this matter, if the ambassador in question has been called in, and if any action has been taken by the government to ask the government of Lebanon to recall him if the facts in this article are correct.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the various press reports on this subject were called to my attention and I have received a telegram containing certain allegations in very general terms. This telegram is now being examined by the department in the light of normal diplomatic practice, and I have given instructions that it be discussed with the Lebanese embassy here in Ottawa. This is the usual practice. I arrived back just last night and have not had a report of these discussions. Perhaps before the day is out I may be in a position to say something further in this connection. Just before I left I gave instructions that this matter was to be discussed forthwith with the Lebanese ambassador, because on the surface the circumstances were certainly of an order that called for explanation.

**Mr. Douglas:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs who the telegram was from and whether any of the officials of his department have interviewed either of the gentlemen in question in order to verify the newspaper reports of the accusations which they made regarding the Lebanese ambassador?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I cannot say who the telegram was from, Mr. Speaker. I saw it, but I forget who it was from. With regard to the last part of the hon. member's question, I will make inquiries about that matter.

**FISHERIES****NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING ESTABLISHMENT OF STRAIGHT BASE LINES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Fisheries and ask whether he and his colleague the Secretary of State

[Mr. Douglas.]

for External Affairs have been able to make any further progress since we last had an opportunity of raising the question of the establishment of straight base lines, which would alter our territorial seas and our fishing zones, in accordance with the principle outlined in the bill with which the house dealt some time ago.

**Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, as I replied to a similar question of the hon. member some weeks ago, negotiations are under way with the countries involved and progress is being made.

**Mr. Barnett:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister suggested several times that the negotiations were under way. I wonder whether he would mind checking to see whether the engines of the ship of state have come to a halt and the ship has lost way.

**Mr. Robichaud:** I do not believe this is a proper question to answer, Mr. Speaker.

**ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS—INCREASE IN PERCENTAGE RATE OF SUBSIDY**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Has any consideration been given to increasing the percentage rate of subsidy under the fishing vessels assistance regulations covering fishing vessels 35 feet and over, in order to bring the subsidy more in line with the tonnage rates formerly paid?

**Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think we can accept the statement made by the hon. member that the percentage rates now being offered are not in line with the tonnage rate, however, I can inform the hon. member that the whole matter is under consideration.

**AIRPORTS****DORVAL—DANGER FROM TOWER AT WORLD FAIR SITE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. John N. Turner (St. Lawrence-St. George):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport which relates to one of the main landing routes into the Dorval airport. In view of the proposed tower over the world fair site, which is supposed to rise