

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF—POSSIBLE USE OF EXISTING
GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the minister related to the appointment of the chairman and members of the Food Prices Review Board. Is it the intention of the government to utilize the existing organization that was brought together for the Prices and Incomes Commission or does the government propose to establish an added bureaucracy for this board?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Well, Mr. Speaker, the organization to which the hon. member refers essentially went out of existence with the Prices and Incomes Commission. In order to make sure that the board is able to carry out its responsibility in an independent manner, as the food trends committee recommended, it is our view that the board should have its own staff.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister if he can assure the House that the staff necessary for the functioning of the Prices Review Board will be taken from existing government organizations and that a new bureaucracy will not be created?

Mr. Gray: No, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give the hon. member that assurance. I am not certain that this would be desirable. The decision in this regard in my view is something to be worked out between the review board and the government.

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AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO INCREASED FARM
PRODUCTION COSTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the minister. In light of the unanimous concern by farmers in all parts in Canada about rising machinery costs and in light of the 6.1 per cent increase in farm input cost in the first quarter of 1973, does the minister intend to undertake a separate and special investigation under the Inquiries Act into farm production costs, and if not, why is he reluctant to do so?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think all I can say is I will take the hon. member's suggestion under advisement.

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ENERGY

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPERTANKER PORTS ON
ATLANTIC COAST—POSSIBLE PROTEST TO UNITED
STATES

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of the Environment. Since an aide memoire of protest was forwarded to the government of the United States in respect of the proposed Alaska to Cherry Point route, will a

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similar memoire of protest be forwarded to cover the Eastport proposal.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): I hope so and very shortly, Mr. Speaker.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITED NATIONS AGENCY
TO REGULATE ACTIVITIES ON HIGH SEAS OR SEA BED—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that scientists believe that by the end of the 70's some 35 per cent of the world's oil requirements will be met from offshore production, while pressure mounts for increased control over deep-sea mining, transportation and fishing problems, is the government giving any thought to proposing the establishment at the United Nations of an international agency to regulate, supervise and control all activities on the high seas or under the sea bed.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I will consult with the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to ascertain the final answer on that.

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FISHERIES

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CANADA'S
POSITION AT ICNAF CONFERENCE—GOVERNMENT
POSITION

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question. In view of the possible danger that a decision which was reached yesterday might be misinterpreted as lack of support for the ICNAF delegation which is meeting in Copenhagen on Sunday, would the Prime Minister be prepared to bring before the House a resolution of support for Canada's position at the ICNAF conference on June 3 at which time the conference hopes to bring back a better deal for the Canadian fishery. I am sure, Your Honour, all members of all parties would be willing to work toward such a resolution.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Well, Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that a delegation of the Canadian government would have the authority to speak on behalf of the government and I am happy to see that the opposition joins itself with this position.

Mr. Lundrigan: Your Honour, my question had nothing to do with the support of the government. It is the support of the House of Commons. I am asking the right hon. gentleman whether the government will bring forward some form of resolution that can be unanimously accepted by the House giving the Canadian delegation led by the very competent Dr. Needler an assurance that the position