

referendum. May I briefly point out that in Canada, as I understand it, a referendum has, and would have, no force in law. It would be a recommendation to parliament, and parliament would still have to decide. Surely this is why we are elected here, to consider responsibly the material and evidence put before us and to reach a decision. Let me just point out, however, that in California, where a referendum does have some force, such a referendum was taken a year or a year and a half ago and overwhelmingly called for the death penalty. In the six months that followed, the murder rate increased markedly.

May I call it five o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

### PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth)—Northern Affairs—Issuance of new permits to drill for oil on native land—Government position; the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley (Mr. Jelinek)—Sports—Reason for alleged double standard in dealing with South Africa; the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock (Mr. Friesen)—Penitentiaries—British Columbia—Suggested need for reorganization of staff—Confidence of minister in administrator.

It being five o'clock p.m. this House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions (papers).

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Motion No. 34 in the name of the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski). Shall the motion stand at the request of the government?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Paproski:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think it has been agreed that we shall proceed with No. 70 and let the others stand.

### Continental Shelf Boundary

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON—CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN CANADA AND FRANCE ON CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY DISPUTES

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe)** moved:

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House copies of all minutes of meetings, letters and telegrams pertaining to the negotiations which have taken place between the government and France on the continental shelf boundary disputes with regard to the France-Canada boundary around the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon.

He said: Mr. Speaker, first of all there is a small dilemma in that there appears to be a typographical error in my motion as printed in the order paper. Reference is made in line five to the United States. It should read "France," not "the United States." I think there is agreement on the other side that the motion should be considered with that change.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Hon. members have heard the suggested change made by the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall). It is probably a printing error, but whatever it is I am sure hon. members will agree to allow the hon. member to make that correction.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Marshall:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for a debate on this motion in view of the implications that this tiny island of St. Pierre and Miquelon can have in regard to Canada's position in proclaiming a 200-mile fisheries zone or economic zone, or indeed the extension of limits to the edge of our continental shelf. I see no reason why my request for documents or for the production of same would be harmful to Canada's position during negotiation and discussion with our friendly neighbour.

I also want to know, as well as every Newfoundlander, in view of the province's proximity to St. Pierre and Miquelon, what will be Newfoundland's future in regard to its offshore resources, resources that are vital to its future economy. We also want to know what is the position regarding settlement of adjacent boundaries.

If one looks at a map, Mr. Speaker, one will see that the islands lie, at their closest point, 14 nautical miles south of Newfoundland. But, more important, a Canadian island, Little Green Island, lies only three miles from the French coast line. In ongoing negotiations between Canada and France, which continue in secrecy, evidently Canada's view is that a median line should be drawn between Little Green Island and St. Pierre which would put the boundary 1½ miles from the French coast. The French maintain that the boundary should be mid-channel between their islands and the Burin peninsula, which would give no territorial sea rights to Green Island.

● (1700)

The islands were ceded to France by Britain by the Treaty of Paris in 1763 and the Canadian government, and rightly so, is of the opinion, at present, that Canada should have a chance to renegotiate the terms inasmuch as they were agreed upon by two other countries, Britain and France. The islands are less than ten miles by ten miles in