Inquiries of the Ministry

of Japanese vessels off the coast of Greenland engaged in the harvesting of Atlantic salmon?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): I have not had any reports to this effect, Mr. Speaker, but I will certainly look into the matter.

Mr. Lundrigan: This matter was drawn to the attention of the Acting Prime Minister on Wednesday. I am sure he has had time to investigate it. Can we have his report?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not have my personal spies in the area.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: You have personal spies?

Mr. Sharp: I generally depend, with reason, upon the Minister of Fisheries who is doing an excellent job of supervising our fisheries and seeing that our resources are conserved.

INCOME TAX

REMOVAL OF EXEMPTION GRANTED UNITED STATES PRO-FESSORS AT CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): My question is for the Minister of Finance. I join my colleague in wishing a happy birthday to "gentle Ben". Has the government reached a decision on whether to remove the present tax concession to American academics? Will the minister make a statement in that regard now or do we, as he states, have to wait until the presentation of the budget?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I have stated previously, for example, in the white paper proposals, that the exemption could be lifted; the particular advantage that is given to foreign teachers coming to Canada should be lifted. This will, of course, necessitate renegotiation of treaties in due course. I cannot say whether this remains our opinion until the budget is produced.

THE CENSUS

COST OF PENCILS PROVIDED WITH FORMS

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and it concerns the census. It is true that the pencils provided with the census forms cost the taxpayers of Canada between \$100,000 and \$200,000 and, if so, how does the government justify such an expenditure?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question could well be placed on the order paper in writing, with a pencil.

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PRESENCE OF JAPANESE VESSELS FISHING FOR SALMON OFF GREENLAND

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether any investigation was carried out with regard to the charge made in the House on Wednesday that there were Japanese involved in the salmon fishery off Greenland? The minister has treated this question very lightly. He gave a very negative response to a matter which is of grave concern in the Atlantic region.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister might reply to the first part of the question.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, at the present time our officials are meeting in Halifax with the Japanese and representatives of other countries. They should be able to provide us with up to date information. I am personally asking for a report on the matter.

[Later:]

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday an urgent matter was raised in the House regarding a foreign nation involving itself in the salmon fishery operation, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I understand, undertook to make an investigation. I charge there has been a dereliction of duty on his part. If we continue to receive this kind of response from the Secretary of State for External Affairs he should get to heck out of it altogether.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should resume his seat.

ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERIES QUOTAS AT ICNAF

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): In view of the importance of maintaining our fisheries resources off our Atlantic coast, have quotas been established among the 15 nations of ICNAF, at the meeting in Halifax? If so, how many ICNAF countries have agreed to maintain national fishing quotas and how many have indicated they will not maintain fishing quotas?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Some quotas have been established for some species of fish in certain areas. Negotiations are continuing throughout this current week and into next week in the hope of extending quotas to other species in more areas.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A supplementary question. Has Canada's position regarding a total ban on salmon fishing on the high seas met with support at the ICNAF meeting, apart from Denmark?

Mr. Davis: The subject of Atlantic salmon comes up next Wednesday. Our position continues to be that of a total ban of fishing for salmon on the high seas.