

Inquiries of the Ministry

effect that he and other ministers were meeting with representatives of the shipbuilding industry.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Defence Production): Mr. Speaker, these meetings have been continuing, as well as meetings with other ministers. In view of the decision that has been made in regard to responsibility, I think this question should more properly be directed to the Minister of Industry.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the indication given yesterday that any decision in regard to assistance to the fisheries was being deferred until the end of the fiscal year, has any decision been taken to defer action with regard to subsidies on wooden vessels also until the end of the fiscal year? I would direct that question to the appropriate minister, whoever he may happen to be.

Mr. MacEwan: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to my question to the Minister of Defence Production could I ask the minister of industry when he believes he will be able to make a statement to the house in connection with this most important matter of shipbuilding in Canada?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I love to make statements, but I really do not see the need for one on this subject today. We have a shipbuilding program. The subsidies are being progressively reduced, and representations about this have been made. An inter-departmental committee is now studying these representations, and in due course I will say whether a change is to be made.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the various members of the government have decided who is responsible for subsidies on wooden ships so that my question can be answered.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, wooden vessels come under the fisheries department; steel vessels come under the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Bell: Welcome back.

Mr. Davis: The estimates for next year will be published early in the new year.

[Mr. MacEwan.]

Mr. Anderson: A supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. In view of the minister's remark that there is no need for a statement on shipbuilding policy would he please urgently consider answering question No. 295, which was put on the order paper on September 27. Since apparently there is to be no policy change the question should be easy to answer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

SHIPPING**EXPERIMENTS WITH NEW ICEBREAKING EQUIPMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, on November 20 I directed a question to the Minister of Transport which the minister took as notice and said he would deal with later. It concerned the planned experimental icebreaking expedition into Churchill with the Alexbow. I wonder whether the minister is able to answer now.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. As I recall it, the allegation to which my hon. friend referred is not correct. The reason the Alexbow experiment did not take place this winter was that the company responsible for its development, having considered the situation and been unable to get the cargo they felt was necessary to assist in defraying the cost of the experiment, decided not to proceed with it this year.

Mr. Simpson: A supplementary question. On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I might tell the minister that I did not make allegations; I merely asked him a question. In view of the fact that the federal government, as I understand it, through their connection with Pan-arctic Oils, controls a lot of the interest in this new icebreaking equipment, I thought I should bring this to the minister's attention.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**APPLICATION FOR RATE INCREASES BY BELL TELEPHONE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware of the application by the Bell Telephone Company of Canada to the Canadian Transport Commission requesting a sharp increase in telephone rates in Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton,