

Inquiries of the Ministry

FISHERIES TREATY WITH NORWAY—REQUEST FOR OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS TERMS

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of this treaty, several facets of which have been mentioned already, and in view of the fact that it will permit the annual seal massacre to take place until at least 1978, can the minister assure the House that an opportunity will be given to Parliament to discuss the terms of the treaty before this licence to further decimate our wildlife is made final?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am not sure the hon. member has in mind the same reasons the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate has in mind in raising the question. There might be an opportunity at some time to have a discussion of this matter such as during consideration of the estimates of the Department of Fisheries and my department. There will be plenty of opportunities. We have nothing to hide about this agreement.

FISHERIES TREATY WITH NORWAY—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of the matter and the very serious questions raised thereto by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate, and since the minister says he has nothing to hide, will the minister give a statement to the House tomorrow on this treaty?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I am certainly prepared to issue a statement on this subject.

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member in a moment.

The hon. member for Gaspé.

• (8:40 p.m.)

Mr. McGrath: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

[Translation]

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will have to wait a little.

[English]

The hon. Member for St. John's East is rising on a point of order.

Mr. McGrath: May I say with respect, Mr. Speaker, that I directed my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs who still has the responsibility of the House for international treaties. I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he would make a statement on this treaty, not the Minister of Fisheries.

[Translation]

Mr. Cyr: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will come back to the hon. member in a few moments.

[Mr. Sharp.]

[English]

I will return to the hon. member for St. John's East in a moment, but at this time we have a question of privilege.

Mr. Lundrigan: The minister has indicated to the House that the secret treaty of July 15 has not been ratified. I am not multilingual, but I have a document in my hand which refers to the accord between Canada and Norway and which is signed by the minister's own "expert" in external affairs, Mr. Allen Beasley. What does that mean?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

STEINBERG'S—INQUIRY AS TO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INCREASED PROFITS AND PRICES

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Considering the announcement made today by Steinberg's Company to the effect that their profits for the last quarter are higher than expected, does the minister intend to ask for an investigation in order to determine whether the enormous profits made in 1971 by that chain store have contributed to the increase of consumer prices?

[English]

Hon. Ron. Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I have not seen those reports, but I will have a look at them to see whether there is any correlation between the profit level and price levels. I would point out to the hon. member that there are many reasons for profit increases, including the efficiency of the operators of the firm, and that there is not necessarily any correlation between the two levels.

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IMMIGRATION

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF WHITE PAPER

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): My question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Can he tell the House if and when he will be tabling the white paper on immigration which I believe he promised the House last spring.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The discussion that has taken place in the House has generally been about the changes to the immigration law, with some comments about the reference in a previous Speech from the Throne to a policy paper. We have been working toward the final version of these matters. I cannot put a precise date as to the tabling or first reading, nor can I predict whether it will happen in the remaining short portion of this session or the next session.

NUMBER OF ALIENS IN CANADA ILLEGALLY—REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION TO REMEDY SITUATION

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): In view of the fact that there are some 7,500 cases pending before the