

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY**STATUS OF WATERS BETWEEN ST. PIERRE-
MIQUELON AND CANADA

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Did he or any of his officials hold discussions recently with officials of the French government concerning the status of the water which lies between St. Pierre and Miquelon and Canada and, if so, will fishing be permitted in this area? Will it be within the traditional three-mile limit or will the 12-mile limit apply?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, quite obviously there is a problem related to the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon because we have a 12-mile fishing limit around our coast. We would therefore, have to negotiate a median line between those islands and Newfoundland. We have been having some discussions with the French government, but these discussions are not yet concluded.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, would the minister discuss with his colleagues the possibility of resolving these problems by making an offer to the French government to buy these islands?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

NATIONAL REVENUEDELAY IN FEDERAL SALES TAX
AUDITS OF COMPANIES

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the fact that federal sales tax auditors have not made annual inspections or audits of many Canadian companies, for up to as long as four or five years, and that in many cases when they do these audits they reassess the companies for thousands of dollars in taxes, what steps is the minister taking to overcome this problem and to make sure that there will be more frequent and regular inspections?

Mr. Speaker: I would like to indicate to the minister and to the hon. member who asked the question that it should be more properly answered by way of a statement on motions or, if there is urgency to it which is not apparent to the Chair, the matter might be debated at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Hales: Ten o'clock.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGESGRANT FOR BILINGUAL PROGRAMS—
CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Secretary of State.

Can he tell the House whether the government has consulted the provinces and has been able to reach a consensus prior to announcing the grant of \$50 million for the promotion of education in the official language of Canada's minorities?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Yes, Mr. Speaker, consultations were already under way. For instance, the ministerial committee on the constitutional conference had already met on this subject at the end of last May. The provincial ministers had then asked the federal government to clarify its attitude with regard to the royal commission's recommendations and state a policy giving figures on the financial contribution it intended to make.

This was done at the last meeting held on November 6, and the department is now conducting negotiations with almost every provincial government, as requested by them.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Would the Secretary of State tell the house why exchanges and agreements are so hard to come by, at the secondary level, with respect to university students of a province following university courses in another province? Universities have run into an impasse.

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I do not think this problem is related to the policy involved. This matter seems to come under provincial jurisdiction and I could not explain to the hon. member why they encounter such difficulties, since these have not been engendered by nor are they known to the federal government. As a matter of fact, this matter does not come under its purview.

[English]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONSREQUEST THAT HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT BE PLACED ON
CONFERENCE AGENDA

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister agree—he shakes his head already, Mr. Speaker, even though I