

MARINE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT—CANADIAN
POSITION—PUBLICATION BEFORE LAW OF THE SEA
CONFERENCE

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that Iceland and several other countries have prepared a very firm and straightforward position to put before the Law of the Sea Conference to be held in 1973, may I ask the minister whether Canada has also formulated its position, and will it be made public in advance of the conference?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am very sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I missed part of the question. Could it be repeated?

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether the department has formulated a clear position to be presented by the Canadian government at the Law of the Sea Conference in 1973, and will it be made public in advance of the conference?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, we are still in the process of formulating the position that we will take at this conference. Whether our position will be made public in advance I am not certain yet since we are not yet in a position to say what this policy will be. However, it will be directed, as the hon. member would expect, toward the preservation of the fishing resources of the sea, particularly those off our coasts, and to the assertion of Canadian rights and responsibilities in relation thereto.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Crouse: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member rises to ask a further supplementary and I shall return to him in a moment. Let me again remind all hon. members that we will be running short of time. There are quite a few members who are anxious to ask questions, and if we spend too much time on each subject we will run out of time before an appreciable number of members have had an opportunity to ask their questions.

[Later:]

DATE OF LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs is a very brief one. In view of the importance of this matter would the minister indicate whether a date has yet been set for the next Law of the Sea Conference?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, it is still scheduled for 1973, though I am not quite sure of the dates yet. Whether we will realize this expectation—certainly that is our purpose—I am not certain, but as soon as we do have the dates I will let the House know.

Inquiries of the Ministry

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS—MEANING OF WORDS “ON
SCHEDULE” USED BY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration based on a statement he made today which is similar to one he made on Friday. When the parliamentary secretary or his department says that an effort is being made to pay claims on schedule, what is meant by the phrase “on schedule”—six weeks, eight weeks or what period of time?

Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I know that the hon. member is well versed in the operations of this plan. Indeed, he attended many of the committee meetings and will realize that benefit payments depend upon the length of time of the qualifying period, be it 20 weeks or 8 weeks. The long-term claimant with 20 weeks of contribution receives payment earlier than others. I hope that this question can be brought before the standing committee so that we can go into it in greater detail.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member resume his seat? I see the hon. member for Hamilton West and others want to ask supplementaries on this subject, which I thought we had left behind a moment ago with the hope that we would get on to other subjects. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has a supplementary and I will then return, as I undertook a moment ago, to the hon. member for South Shore.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question may I put this to the parliamentary secretary. In view of his reference to knowledge that some members might have of the act, may I ask whether an effort is being made to get these claims paid within the first three weeks?

Mr. Perrault: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report to the House that there has been a measurable increase in efforts to speed payments. Indeed, the claims—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[Translation]

POWER

PROPOSED JAMES BAY POWER HYDROELECTRIC
DEVELOPMENT—DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC
RESPECTING INTEREST FREE LOANS

Mr. Oza Tétrault (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Finance.

Has he had negotiations with the Prime Minister of the province of Quebec in connection with loans which might be interest-free or at a low interest rate for the development of James Bay?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.