

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. MacInnis: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If legislation has been passed by this House, why has the government not used it to protect our fisheries?

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): A supplementary question to the Minister of Fisheries. I ask the minister if he will ignore the provision in the petition presented yesterday by the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich, the effect of which would be that the continental shelf would be inside the 12-mile limit?

Mr. Davis: This would be quite an exercise in geography, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member knows, the continental shelf extends 400 miles off the coast of Newfoundland.

Mr. Anderson: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member in a moment. I suggest to hon. members that perhaps we should proceed to another subject. The hon. member for Sainte-Marie has been seeking the floor for a long time. The hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Anderson: The petition I presented yesterday would not have the effect which the hon. member has suggested.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a question of privilege.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NIAMEY-COMPOSITION OF CANADIAN DELEGATION TO EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

I would ask the minister, in connection with the answer he made to the House yesterday to the effect that he intends to give a very special role to the Quebec delegation to the Niamey conference, whether he could state more precisely the role he intends to give to Quebec.

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter which is under discussion with the government of Quebec. I can assure the hon. member it would be a very prominent role, recognizing the position of Quebec as one of

[Mr. Speaker.]

the principal centres of our French speaking population.

[Translation]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a supplementary question.

Would the minister be prepared to tell the House whether the province of Quebec has agreed to participate in the Niamey conference even if it should not act as a delegate of an official government? In other words, did that province agree or refuse?

[English]

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. member feels as I do, that the Quebec delegation will be there as a part of the Canadian delegation.

DRUGS**LEGALIZING OF USE OF MARIJUANA**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the minister's recent statement in Ottawa during a question and answer period at Carleton University, is it government policy to legalize the use of marijuana if the government finds that there is a significant minority of Canadians using this substance?

Mr. Speaker: The question as asked does not seem to be in order. The hon. member cannot ask for a statement of policy in this way.

Mr. Nesbitt: Your Honour, if I am out of order I will be happy to rephrase my question. Is it government policy to legalize the use of marijuana if the government finds that there is a significant minority of Canadians using this substance?

Mr. Speaker: It seems that the second question is very much like the first one.

Mr. Nesbitt: I thought perhaps Your Honour was going to object to it.

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF LEDAIN COMMISSION

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I wish to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare a question. According to the reply I received the last time I asked this question, I thought we would have had the LeDain report by now. Can the minister say when the LeDain Commission is going to