Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I want to deal with some other aspects of the communiqué.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon member's question supplementary, because there is a request for a supplementary question on the part of the hon member for South Shore?

Mr. Lewis: I will leave it to Your Honour. It is supplementary in the sense that it deals with the communiqué, but perhaps your Honour might want to allow the other supplementary question first.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair might allow the hon. member for South Shore a supplementary question and then we will go to the other aspect of the communiqué to which the hon. member wishes to allude.

CANADIAN-SOVIET COMMUNIQUÉ—DISCUSSION OF OVERFISHING BY RUSSIAN FLEET OFF ATLANTIC COAST

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): My question deals with the tabling of the Canadian-Soviet communiqué and I wish to direct it either to the right hon. Prime Minister or to the Minister of the Environment. The communiqué that has been tabled does not mention the fisheries problem which is troubling Atlantic Canada, despite the assurances given us by the Minister of the Environment as well as by the Prime Minister that this matter was discussed. Was there discussion about the excessive overfishing by the Russian fleet off the coast of Atlantic Canada? If so, was any agreement reached and when may we expect this agreement with regard to the conservation of our fisheries resources off the Atlantic coast to be tabled?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, a representation was made, an emphatic one, and there was some discussion of the matter. The Premier of the U.S.S.R. did say that he would take the matter under careful consideration.

CANADIAN-SOVIET COMMUNIQUÉ—SECTORS OF INDUSTRY INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS OF MIXED COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister some questions arising out of the language of the communiqué. It is perhaps necessarily general but it would be useful if he could elucidate what some of these statements mean. The communiqué refers to working groups of the mixed commission between the two countries concentrating on sectors of industry in their discussions which offer "the best prospects for further co-operation and the development of trade." Is it possible for the Prime Minister, or any other minister—in view of the wave of the arm that I noticed the Prime Minister make—to tell us what sectors of industry fall into that category?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, these groups operate under the agreement on Industrial application of Science and Technology. Already there are six bilateral working groups in existence. One is on oil, one on gas, one on construction,

one on hydro power, one on non-ferrous metals, and there is another one I cannot recall at the moment.

Mr. Baldwin: On communications.

Mr. Pepin: The idea is for these groups to get together—each has already met at least once—is to try to identify areas where we have complementary technology and to see if trade opportunities can develop in these areas. Already on the Canadian side prefabricated homes and pulp and paper machinery have been identified as products that could sell in the Soviet Union. This is the purpose of the agreement and both sides give a lot of importance to it.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask a supplementary on the other side of the coin. In another part of the communiqué it was stated that Canada was prepared to facilitate the importation into Canada of goods from the Soviet Union, "including machinery and equipment," and that the Soviet Union would do likewise for Canadian exports. Would the minister be able to inform the House at this stage what areas of machinery and equipment are under discussion, if those areas have in fact been identified?

Mr. Pepin: That is the name of the game, Mr. Speaker. The Soviet representatives are supposed to identify these areas for their government.

CANADIAN-SOVIET COMMUNIQUÉ—MACHINERY FOR JOINT ACTION AGAINST POLLUTION IN ARCTIC

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, there are a good many aspects of this communiqué that are not very clear. I am not saying this critically, but it is a fact. I would like to ask either the Prime Minister or the minister of pollution—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: —the Minister of the Environment—looking across I could only think of pollution, Mr. Speaker, I could not think of the exact title—

Mr. Guay (St. Bonifαce): You really got polluted, didn't you?

Mr. Lewis: —to inform the House what machinery has in fact been set up or what machinery is in fact planned to carry out the statements in the communiqué with regard to joint plans and joint action against pollution in the Arctic and general action to protect the environment in the Arctic? Has there been any machinery already set up? Is additional machinery contemplated? Generally, what is involved in that statement?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of machinery set up during the course of these recent consultations, but I am sure either the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the Prime Minister could elaborate on this subject.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for York South for one more supplementary and then recognize the hon. member for Témiscamingue.