

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the ministers will read the hon. member's comment with interest.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DELEGATION FROM VENEZUELA

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I should like to bring to the attention of hon. members the presence in the gallery of a distinguished delegation from Venezuela led by the Minister of Mines, His Excellency Mr. Perez La Salvia. I should like to welcome these gentlemen.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

TRANSPORT

BORDEN-TORMENTINE FERRY—SERVICE BELOW CAPACITY

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. I know he has had to leave the house to meet a commitment elsewhere, so I shall direct the question to the Minister of Agriculture in his capacity as acting Minister of Transport in the hope that he will be kind enough to take it as notice so that an answer may be given on Monday. Is Canadian National Railways at the present time operating the ships on the Borden-Tormentine service at less than capacity as a result of crew reductions that make it impossible for them to comply with steamship inspection regulations, especially with regard to the manning of lifeboats? If this situation exists, can the minister say when it will be rectified?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

Mr. Bell: You are not even supposed to be here.

WATER RESOURCES

PLACENTIA BAY, Nfld.—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ACTION TO PREVENT POLLUTION

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. In view of the fact that weeks ago the minister promised a statement to the house on the pollution problem in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, and in view of the fact that in today's *Globe and Mail* there is a report that the Erco plant

Inquiries of the Ministry

is expected to announce today the date of re-opening of the plant, when may the house expect a statement on the serious problem of pollution and whether steps will be taken to ensure that adequate protection is afforded to the fishing industry in that area?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, the fishermen are catching more top quality fish in Placentia Bay than ever before. The plant will only open on a schedule which is satisfactory to the government.

COWICHAN BAY, B.C.—PROTECTION FROM INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry whether his department has any information that large-scale industrial activity is expected in Cowichan Bay near the mouth of the Cowichan River which as the minister knows, is one of the largest salmon spawning grounds in British Columbia? Are these reports correct and, if so, is the department taking protective measures against the possible dangers to the fishing industry in that area?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, we are looking carefully into the matter, but I would be surprised if the reports are correct.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In view of what has happened at Placentia Bay, would the minister assure the house that steps will be taken to ensure that the toxic material is taken out of the effluent so that the fish will not be killed?

AGRICULTURE

ACTION TO CURB LOW PRICED U.S. IMPORTS

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Minister of Finance. It deals with his statement concerning the 3 per cent general tariff reduction which was discussed with the United States representatives. Would the minister state whether any agreement was reached in respect of the establishment of a practical method of quickly curbing imports from that country if they are found to be creating a great hardship on any segment of Canadian industry or are having an effect on the cost of living and are encouraging inflation?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the matter of disruption of certain Canadian producers applies particularly