

Mr. Lewis: I do not appreciate that the President of the Treasury Board cannot give this kind of information. The matter may not come before Treasury Board, but is the President of the Treasury Board aware of any requested increase?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any increase. As I indicated, the role of the federal government in respect to this matter is to scrutinize and to approve an annual capital budget for the corporation. Control of that budget rests with the corporation. They are the ones who negotiate and agree to, or otherwise, price changes.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

PAYMENT OF REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO DISCOVERY OF KIDNAPPERS—POLICE FORCES INVOLVED IN SEARCH

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether or not any consideration has been given to or allocation made of the reward which was undertaken to be provided by the federal and provincial governments to anyone giving information in connection with the Cross or Laporte cases. In view of the fact that Mr. Cross' whereabouts were found, is any reward being considered for those who gave the information that led to the discovery of the kidnapers?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I must say frankly that I know of no such reward having been paid. May I go on to say that if I did I do not see how the House could expect me to take it into my confidence. Obviously if a reward is paid as a result of information given by some of the associates in the crime, it would be undesirable to have their colleagues in crime know that they had been informed upon, and I doubt whether it would be in the public interest for the government to reveal such information.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I must say, Mr. Speaker, the argument advanced by the Prime Minister is very ingenious. I am not asking for the identity of the individuals who received the reward; I asked whether or not consideration has been given to making a payment. In view of the evasiveness of the right hon. gentleman's first answer, I am led to ask a second question. Were any other police officers or members of the secret service participants in the search for the whereabouts of Mr. Cross other than members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the provincial police of Quebec or the city police of Montreal?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I know of no other police forces. The armed forces, of course, assisted greatly in various parts of this operation. I must take exception to the hon. member's allegations about my being evasive in answering his previous question. I assure him that I was not evasive. I told him quite frankly not only that I thought it would be against the public interest to say whether or not a reward had been paid but that I felt the

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names of the persons to whom a reward might be paid should not be disclosed either.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What is being hidden now?

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FISHERIES

DECIMATION OF STOCKS—ACTION TO PROTECT INSHORE FISHERMEN

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. In view of the minister's press release yesterday which indicated that it has been determined by the Fisheries Research Board that activity of foreign fleets through overfishing has seriously decimated our fishing stocks, what immediate action is the minister proposing to take to protect our inshore fishermen?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I have outlined several times in the House the steps that we are taking. We are describing what we regard as sound conservation practice, and bilateral discussions are being had with certain countries. We are working through the North Atlantic Fisheries Commission, which is our main hope, and we are preparing a strong submission to the next Law of the Sea Conference sponsored by the United Nations which may be held in 1972.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MARINE RESOURCES

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the minister of external affairs and some members of our Canadian delegation at the United Nations feel that it might take five years for an international Law of the Sea Conference to be held, would the minister be prepared to approach other members of the cabinet in order to try to convene an international conference on marine resources, sponsored by Canada, perhaps within the next year, year and a half or two years?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I am not as pessimistic as the hon. member; I believe there will be a Law of the Sea Conference in 1972.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the seriousness of the matter alluded to in the minister's statement, is he prepared to use his initiative to convene an extra special conference of ICNAF to discuss conservation solely?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the next meeting of ICNAF will be in the spring, and we will certainly be stressing the findings of our Fisheries Research Board at that time.

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.