

Oral Questions

defence, search and rescue, surveillance, verification, that kind of thing. We want the purposes of the space station to continue to be reserved for those original purposes.

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SOVEREIGNTY

REPORTS OF INCREASED SOVIET SUBMARINE ACTIVITY

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs who will be aware of recent reports in our media and the U.S. media of increased Soviet submarine activity in or near Canadian waters, particularly reports that Soviet submarines have regularly moved into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Does the Minister know if Soviet submarines have entered Canadian waters? If so, has the Minister protested in the strongest possible terms this invasion of Canadian sovereignty by the Soviet Union, to the Soviet Union?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am amazed at the Hon. Member's question—

Ms. Jewett: I care about my sovereignty.

Mr. Beatty:—which is coming from a member and a Party who have done more to weaken the defences of Canada than anyone else in Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Beatty: The House will appreciate the fact that we cannot comment for security reasons on the state of our knowledge with respect to foreign submarine activity off the coasts of Canada. Suffice it to say that there is continuing foreign Soviet activity off the coasts of North America and that the Canadian Department of Defence continues to do its job in terms of surveillance and protection of Canada's security and of our sovereignty, and we would ask for the support of hon. members of the New Democratic Party in doing so.

Ms. Jewett: Mr. Speaker, members of the New Democratic Party care about our sovereignty, which is more than I can say for those people.

Some Hon. Members: Oh oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, Hear!

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, we have to learn from the American press about U.S. invasions of our sovereignty in the Arctic and about Soviet invasions of our sovereignty off the West Coast. Why does the

Government not know something about what is going on? Is the Secretary of State for External Affairs going to protest to the Soviet Union this invasion of our sovereignty?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, we do know something about what is going on. One thing we know is that Hon. Members opposite have passed a resolution on behalf of their Party calling upon Canada to pull out of NATO and NORAD, which would desperately weaken the defence of Canada.

Mr. Riis: Why don't you stand up for Canada just once?

Mr. Beatty: The position of this Party, the Government of Canada, is to defend the sovereignty of Canada, to defend the security of Canada, in spite of the opposition of the New Democratic Party.

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[Translation]

SHIPYARDS

OPPORTUNITY FOR GOVERNMENT TO ASK MARINE ATLANTIC TO AMEND PLAN

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister and concerns the present economic crisis in Quebec's shipyards.

The Prime Minister is aware that 5,000 workers in Quebec are waiting for work to start in the shipyards so they can go back to their jobs. We know that at this point, workers employed by the Lauzon shipyard at Quebec City are no longer entitled to unemployment insurance benefits. They now have to go on welfare.

Is the Prime Minister prepared to urge Marine Atlantic to speed up the changes so that by the month of May, about 1,000 or 1,200 workers will be able to go back to their jobs, instead of having to apply for welfare?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think that the question about planning in Quebec's shipbuilding industry has been answered by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion a number of times.

As for the workers to whom the Hon. Member is referring, there are ways of dealing with the loss of a number of jobs through mechanisms involving the Department of Employment and Immigration, in co-operation with the provinces and the businesses concerned. We are always prepared to consider—as the Hon. Member said, when and if something happens, then the Department will intervene.