

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

HEALTH**SHORTAGE OF CANADIAN-TRAINED MEDICAL DOCTORS AND PERSONNEL—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Recognizing the great fear and anxiety in the hearts of the Canadian people over the acute shortage of doctors and the great uncertainty of any action being taken to prevent further deterioration, would the minister be prepared to make a statement in the House in the very near future outlining proposals to combat the shortage of doctors and Canadian-trained medical personnel?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I have made many statements on the very meritorious actions, I think, taken by the government in this area. I am sure the hon. member has copies of those statements.

Mr. Rynard: The other day the minister stated certain facts regarding what he was doing. Many members of the House have asked me what is really going on behind the scenes. I am only asking him to make a statement to the House on what the proposals are.

An hon. Member: What do you have to hide?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, to answer the hon. member, in reply to his question last week, I indicated our view of the matter and what is being done about it.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**AMCHITKA NUCLEAR TEST—CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ACTION TO MONITOR RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT**

Mr. Robert Borrie (Prince George-Peace River): My question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. In view of the great public concern about the dangers of radioactivity along with other effects from the United States atom bomb test at Amchitka, would the minister advise what steps are being taken by the government to monitor radioactive fallout?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that this question was asked and answered yesterday. If there was some aspect of the matter that was overlooked, the minister might be allowed to reply briefly.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, we have sent a research aircraft up to Alaska where I understand it will be accorded the same privileges as United States research aircraft in monitoring the blast later this week.

AMCHITKA NUCLEAR TEST—DECLARATION BY UNITED STATES OF 50-MILE CONTROL ZONE

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secre-

tary of State for External Affairs. I gave his parliamentary secretary notice of the question, although it was short notice. Has the United States unilaterally declared a control zone in the vicinity of the Amchitka nuclear test which would alter the established three-mile limit and, if so, what is its radius and does such control zone have the effect of inhibiting the usual right of innocent passage on the high seas?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the United States has proclaimed a control zone in which there may be danger some 50 miles around the island of Amchitka. It has also restricted the right of innocent passage even within the three-mile territorial seas of the United States. This, I understand, is the factual situation, Mr. Speaker. Whether it does contravene the established law of the seas I do not know but my offhand opinion is that it does.

AMCHITKA NUCLEAR TEST—SIGNING BY PRIME MINISTER OF MEMBERS' PROTEST TELEGRAM

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Since the Prime Minister has frequently suggested to the House that the best way for us as members to express our opposition to the test at Amchitka is through some form of united action, can he inform the House whether his signature will be among those of the other members of the House on the telegram going to the United States protesting this test?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I should point out that the best form of collective action by this House is the resolution adopted by the House. I remind the hon. member that the resolution was introduced by the government and therefore it had our support and my personal support. I was present at the time of the vote, which I regret to say is not true of the leaders of the other parties.

PROPOSED ATMOSPHERE NUCLEAR TESTS BY FRANCE—CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PROTEST

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the announcement that atmosphere nuclear tests will be conducted by France, is the government going to protest formally and immediately against these tests?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should inform the hon. gentleman that the resolution to which the Prime Minister has referred was presented to the French foreign ministry as soon as it was approved by this House. It expressed our general view about nuclear tests and if the French government does intend to proceed with a test we shall make our views known at that time.

Mr. Baldwin: Before or after?