

Inquiries of the Ministry

limits are the international boundary line in Lake Erie.

Mr. Stafford: Have the Americans ever committed similar offences and, if so, do we give them the same treatment?

Mr. Davis: No, Mr. Speaker. We have a gentleman's agreement. They police their own fishery in that respect.

ADDITION OF EXPERT ON U.S. POLITICS
TO CANADIAN EMBASSY STAFF
IN WASHINGTON

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the obvious need for consultation between the United States and Canada on pollution control legislation, the conservation of our fishing resources and other matters such as the one raised by the hon. member for Elgin a few moments ago, is the government planning to add a full-time expert on United States domestic politics to the staff of the Canadian embassy in Washington?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): One of the functions of our ambassadors and other diplomats abroad is to become expert in the affairs of the countries to which they are accredited.

ATLANTIC SALMON—REPRESENTATIONS
TO DENMARK

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs now tell us, in reply to a question which was taken as notice on Monday, whether any representations have been made to Denmark following the latter's threat to withdraw from the North Atlantic Fisheries Commission, in which question is involved the taking of Atlantic salmon on the high seas by Danish fishing vessels?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The terms of a message which will be transmitted to Denmark have now been agreed upon and I expect we shall convey our views to the Danish government very soon.

POST OFFICE

PARTICIPATION OF POSTMASTER GENERAL
IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH EMPLOYEES

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward Hastings): I have a question for the Prime Minister. Is the Postmaster General participating in

[Mr. Davis.]

the important talks which are going on at the present time between the government and the postal workers?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The talks are in front of a conciliation board, Mr. Speaker, and it is not usual for a minister to involve himself at that stage.

Mr. Hees: Is the Postmaster General sharing responsibility on behalf of the government in this matter with the President of the Treasury Board?

Some hon. Members: Answer!

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a further question? Will the right hon. gentleman tell us whether the Postmaster General is still administering his department?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Waterloo.

Mr. Hees: Come on! Up Up!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Later:]

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask whether the Postmaster General has resigned since there has been no sign of him in the House for three weeks?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

FINANCE

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION—DEFERRED DEPRECIATION PROGRAM—GREATER CAPITAL ALLOCATION

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance which is really supplementary to earlier questions. In view of information that is appearing that there is a tremendous increase in plans for construction of commercial and business buildings while there is a sharp drop in residential construction, which would indicate there has been a failure of the minister's deferred depreciation program, is the minister giving consideration to a more definitive policy of capital allocation?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the forecasts indicate the underlying strength of the Canadian economy and that it will move forward quickly in the future and I hope at a reduced level of inflation. However, I am not at the present time considering increasing the differential with regard to depreciation.