

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Yewchuk: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I want to object to the suggestion of the minister that judges who are not maritime judges are not fair.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of fairness, it is a question of native intelligence. I have a supplementary question for the minister. In deference to the fishermen and other people involved, could the minister give some indication as to the timing? Could the minister indicate whether he or his colleague, the Minister of Fisheries, would be in a position to inform the people of this area, say by the end of March or the end of April, as to what course is to be followed?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, at the earliest possible moment. There are three items involved. One is the matter of equipment and gear and that type of thing which may have been damaged by oil. It is a fairly simple thing to determine what actually has been damaged. The second is the matter of the ground fisheries and the potential effects, and the third is the lobster fishery. The timing in each case is somewhat different but there are consultations going on with representatives of the fishermen. I understand a group has been appointed there to carry on these discussions, and I shall be glad to keep the House advised.

SECOND VOYAGE OF "MANHATTAN"—
REINFORCEMENT OF HULL

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of statements made yesterday by officials of Humble Oil Company that there would be no major changes in the construction of the hull of the *Manhattan* and in view of the significant damage to the *Manhattan's* hull on her first trip through the Northwest Passage, can the minister indicate to the House whether he is requesting major reinforcement changes in the hull of the *Manhattan*?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have not heard or been advised of any statement by Humble Oil. I would much prefer to deal with their statement and those that come to me formally than any offhand reports of this nature.

Mr. Harding: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister consider a moratorium on the second trip of the *Manhattan* until such major construction changes are made in its hull in order to avoid

[Mr. Jamieson.]

another possible major oil pollution catastrophe?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, having said in the first instance that I wanted to look at the formal comments from Humble Oil, obviously that flowed into the second question of the hon. gentleman.

An hon. Member: You are a servant of the oil company.

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): A supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. I thought it was going to be a calm house today, Mr. Speaker, so I have a calm and cool question for the Minister of Transport. He says he wants to hear officially from the Humble Oil Company. Has the minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs formally requested from the Humble Oil Company a report on the ship and the route and any damage that occurred to the ship when it went through the Northwest Passage the first time? If so, what was the reply?

Mr. Jamieson: I think we have some information on this, Mr. Speaker, but rather than give anything less than a calm and cool retort to my hon. friend I will take the question as notice and advise him later.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENTS TO PROTECT
ENGLISH AND FRENCH EDUCATION

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Would he tell the House whether the government has received a request from the Protestant School Board of greater Montreal asking the government to introduce amendments to the British North America Act to protect English and French education in Canada?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have not received it as Secretary of State for External Affairs but I shall inquire of the Prime Minister's office.

TAXATION

WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—UNREALIZED
CAPITAL GAINS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Is it the government's intention to proceed with its plan to tax unrealized capital gains, as this is both unfair and unworkable and is making the minister