

Oral Questions

● (1440)

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF ICNAF QUOTAS BY BRITISH
FISHING VESSELS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): While I am on my feet I would like to answer a question asked by the hon. member yesterday. I believe the boardings of the United Kingdom fishing vessels by the United States coastguard referred to by the hon. member occurred in September of this year. U.S. coastguard vessels found six U.K. vessels fishing in apparent violation of ICNAF haddock regulations in the Georges Bank area. These apparent violations were reported to United Kingdom authorities through regular channels. This matter was also raised by the United States at the recent ICNAF meeting in Miami. The delegate from the United Kingdom at the meeting was extremely concerned that these violations had apparently occurred. The United Kingdom delegate emphasized the importance which they attached to their fishermen being informed of and abiding by all ICNAF regulations. He stated that as soon as sufficient evidence had been obtained, the United Kingdom authorities would proceed with the prosecution of those who had violated the law.

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FINANCE

PROCEDURE FOR REMISSION OF SALES TAX ON HEAVY
TRUCKS AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF SPECIAL TAX ON HEAVY
CARS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is for the Minister of Finance. In light of the fact that the budget bills will not follow through this week or next week, would the minister indicate to the House what procedures will be followed for the remission of the sales tax on heavy duty trucks, and also answer the question raised by my colleague, the hon. member for Huron-Middlesex with regard to the effective date of purchase in the case of the special tax for heavy cars.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the first part of the question, I will be seeking an order in council from the Privy Council under the Financial Administration Act to remit the sales tax on tax paid inventory for heavy duty trucks and other heavy transportation equipment, in accordance with the answer I gave in the House and the press release I issued subsequent to my answer to the hon. gentleman's colleague.

In answer to the second part of the question, the sales tax of course is imposed effective on budget night. It depends very much on the date of the contract of sale of individual items as to whether the tax is imposed or not, and, as I said to the hon. gentleman, when we get to committee of the whole I will be glad to get into more detail on that.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): In view of the fact that discussion may be deferred for some weeks, perhaps the minister would consider making it abundantly clear so

[M. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent).]

that the trade and individuals concerned would know where they stand.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The hon. gentleman may well have a point and I will look into it.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF TAX ON PLEASURE
BOATS

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): My question deals with the matter of the 10 per cent additional sales tax on pleasure boats and on motors in excess of 20 horse power, and it is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the many complaints from boatbuilders and marina operators that this new tax will do untold damage to the tourist and boatbuilding industries, would the minister assure the House that he will reconsider his proposal to impose this tax?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I cannot give that assurance, but obviously it will be a topic of conversation before committee of the whole.

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ENERGY

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POSITION ON
EXPORT OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of recent statements by cabinet ministers that government policy on safeguards regarding the export of nuclear fuel and technology is in the final stages of preparation, will the minister assure the House that every consideration is being given to limiting the export of fissionable materials to only those countries which have signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister said the other day in answer to a similar question, the matter is under consideration in the cabinet and has been now for a couple of weeks. This is one of the conditions that might be attached, but no final decision has been made. The matter is a very complex one. I only wish it could be settled as simply as that.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): In view of the fact that an agreement to supply France with enriched uranium from the James Bay area is under discussion, and in view of the fact that the Prime Minister said in reply to a question of mine last week that he had conveyed the position of his government on the export of such fissionable material to the premier of Quebec and to the premier of France, will the Acting Prime Minister now convey to the House the government's position with regard to the export of enriched uranium?

Mr. Sharp: The whole question of the export of fissionable material, of nuclear reactors and so on, is under consideration now. As soon as we have reached a decision, we will make it public. The position on the export of fissionable material is long standing. When I was minister