

Inquiries of the Ministry

through our medical schools, we naturally hope the provinces will take whatever action is necessary.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRANCE RESPECTING CONTINENTAL SHELF—EXPLORATION LICENCES**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. During the course of the negotiations with France regarding their claims to the continental shelf, has any arrangement been made with that country with respect to the granting of licences for exploration on the continental shelf?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, no arrangement has yet been made with France; everything is under negotiation.

Mr. McGrath: May I ask the minister whether he is aware of any French initiatives in this regard to grant licences for oil exploration on that part of the continental shelf which is claimed by France?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I would not be surprised if this is something that the French government would like to obtain but, as I say, everything is under negotiation.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRANCE RESPECTING CONTINENTAL SHELF—SUGGESTED INCLUSION OF PROVINCES IN CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSION

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of the continuing efforts to resolve the question of jurisdiction, whether it is provincial, federal or joint, can the minister indicate whether the provinces have been informed about the negotiations with France and, if not, will he give an assurance that the provinces will be taken into the confidence of the federal government and made part of the process of discussion?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not think there should be any doubt about it that it is the government of Canada that has the responsibility for negotiating with foreign countries. We do consult from time to time with interested parties and I am sure we will have the necessary consultation, but the responsibility is ours.

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HEALTH**POSSIBLE DANGER FROM AMOUNT OF LEAD IN GERMAN STONEWARE CUPS AND PLATES AND CADMIUM IN JAPANESE ENAMELWARE**

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the recent report that the United States Food and Drug Administration has ordered the

[Mr. Munro.]

recall of certain stoneware cups and plates manufactured by Ceramano-Keramik of West Germany because this particular Surf Blue pattern contained up to 44 times the amount of leachable lead allowed under its federal standards, and in view of the fact that certain Japanese enamelware was found to contain from 20 to 100 times the cadmium allowed by U.S. standards, I would ask the minister whether his department has investigated the possibility of these products being sold in Canada and, if so, do they violate Canadian standards?

• (1450)

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the action taken by the department in this particular instance other than to say that the department is in constant communication with what is going on in the United States. If this report has come out I am sure they are looking into whatever implications it may have as far as Canada is concerned. I can give the hon. member more particulars, perhaps later today or tomorrow.

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FINANCE**PROVISION IN BUDGETARY DEFICIT FORECAST FOR 1971-72 FOR ANTICIPATED DEFICIT IN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND**

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance of which I have given him notice. In the budgetary deficit forecast for 1971-72 in the Economic Review released a few days ago, what provision, if any, has been made for the anticipated deficit in the unemployment insurance fund?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for his courtesy in having sent me notice. The explanation is that with the coming into force of the Unemployment Insurance Act in 1971, the unemployment insurance fund was succeeded by the unemployment insurance account. Any short-fall in this account is supported by a working capital advance. The provision of \$325 million for the deficit in this account is shown in Table 61 under the heading, Other Non-budgetary Transactions, on page 145 of that review.

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COMMUNICATIONS**PROVISION OF TELEPHONE AND TELEVISION SERVICES IN NORTHERN NEWFOUNDLAND—ALLEGED DELAY IN PROVISION OF TELEVISION SERVICE BY CBC**

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. In view of the many pronouncements by the government directing a new vision to northern Canada in the seventies, particularly with regard to communications, can the minister advise the House when the citizens of northern Newfoundland will receive the normal fundamental and basic communications associated with telephone and television coverage?