

*Oral Question*

**Mr. MacEachen:**—and not at the request of any other government.

**Mr. Fairweather:** Mr. Speaker, did the process result from osmosis or did somebody initiate some warning? Surely, candour would assist the government in its relationship with the People's Republic of China rather than a cover-up.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for South Shore.

LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE—GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS  
AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS SHARING REVENUE FROM  
OFFSHORE RESOURCES

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Secretary of State for External Affairs will shortly be going to the Law of the Sea Conference in Geneva and we on this side of the House wish him every success in his efforts.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Crouse:** Since the legal regime and the international machinery that would be required for the national management of offshore resources could affect the thinking of people and governments on the whole problem of utilizing increasingly scarce international resources, has the minister discussed revenue sharing with the Minister of National Revenue and will he be taking new proposals to Geneva regarding the establishment of revenue sharing.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the question of so-called revenue sharing will be discussed at the conference. Our delegation has been authorized by the Government of Canada to explore the possibility of a system of revenue sharing under certain conditions, one of which is that the sovereignty to the end of the continental margin would not in any way be jeopardized but that Canada would be prepared to consider the possibility of revenue sharing under specific conditions.

**Mr. Speaker:** One supplementary by the hon. member for South Shore.

**Mr. Crouse:** Mr. Speaker, will proposals of revenue sharing of income from resources be confined to resources outside the 200-mile economic zone or is this to be within the 200-mile economic zone as well, and will the minister be going to Geneva authorized by the government to make firm, specific proposals to the conference with regard to this very thorny problem which is very important to many of the conference delegates.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Certainly, the proposals will not cover any area within the 200-mile economic zone. That is not part of the suggestion. I will be authorized, as the delegation is authorized, to explore the concept of revenue sharing within certain conditions, one of which I have already mentioned. The purpose, of course, is to attempt an accommodation at the conference as the hon. member realizes with regard to the difference of opinion between countries like Canada and other countries on the question of the

[Mr. MacEachen.]

area beyond the 200 miles. It may be that some accommodation can be reached through exploring the concept of revenue sharing. This is what the delegation and I will be attempting to do.

● (1130)

LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE—AUTHORITY OF MINISTER TO  
COMMIT CANADA TO PROPOSALS ON SHARING REVENUE  
FROM OFFSHORE RESOURCES

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the very crucial nature of the final week or so of this conference if the Government of Canada is to achieve the objective it is seeking of recognition of Canadian interests as far out as the edge of the continental slope and the 200 mile limit, and in view of the possible necessity of Canada making some kind of proposal with regard to revenue sharing to get some agreement with other countries with regard to that, is the minister authorized by the cabinet to make a proposal or to commit Canada to a proposal on revenue sharing in that zone beyond the 200 mile limit when he goes to Geneva or is he simply authorized to discuss, listen and report back?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, at the present time the Canadian delegation has not been authorized to engage in discussions with respect to revenue sharing. It is a changed position for the Government of Canada to agree at this point, in the interests of over-all settlement, to undertake the exploration of revenue sharing, which implies in principle that the Canadian government will accept that concept under certain conditions. The Government of Canada has not authorized the details of specific offers. That would have to be considered by the cabinet in light of further discussions at Geneva.

LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE—POSSIBILITY OF PROPOSAL  
THAT NATIONS CUT FISHING QUOTAS BY 40 PER CENT

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the Minister of State (Fisheries) made a request to other nations to cut their quotas by 40 per cent, when the Secretary of State for External Affairs visits Geneva will he be furthering those overtures and has he a definite policy to propose?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker I must confess that I am not informed about that proposal of the Minister of State (Fisheries). If it is a matter that involves ICNAF, then it would really have to be dealt with apart from the Law of the Sea Conference.

LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE—POSSIBILITY OF BILATERAL  
AGREEMENTS ON SHARING REVENUE FROM OFFSHORE  
RESOURCES IF CONFERENCE FAILS

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** My supplementary question is for the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister if his pro-