

Oral Questions

in the African country of Niger where bands of nomads are dying of starvation in a camp located ten feet away from a barbed wire compound containing a warehouse jammed with Canadian grain which is only available to local people with the money to pay for it?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not had any information on this particular case but I will be happy to follow it up.

Mr. Roche: A supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. Because Canada's total aid budget in the new fiscal year will be \$933 million, which is more than all but two government departments, and because the whole question of international aid now goes beyond CIDA and is inextricably linked with all our policies on international finance and trade, what policies will the minister recommend to the government to control and consolidate Canada's whole international assistance program?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for St. John's West.

ARGENTIA, NEWFOUNDLAND—CANADIANS EMPLOYED AT UNITED STATES NAVAL BASE DENIED RIGHT TO FORM UNION

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In reply to a question put to him on February 12, the minister undertook to investigate charges that Canadians working on the American naval station in Argentina were being unfairly treated with respect to wages and other working conditions, can the minister now tell the House whether he has investigated these charges, and if steps are being taken to correct these conditions?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have commenced an investigation into the matter raised by the hon. member. We have communicated with the American authorities and are holding discussions with Canadian labour personnel. As soon as we have something definite to report I will communicate it to the hon. member.

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FISHERIES

TUNA—DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF REGULATIONS FOR SPORT FISHING IN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Fisheries relating to tuna sport fishing. In light of the urgency of operators knowing what the position is going to be, is the minister able to announce the fishery regulations as they apply to tuna sport fishing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence?

Hon. Romeo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of this question. We are trying to have as wide consultations as possible and to reconcile the conflict of interest between the sports fishery and the commercial fishery. We are now trying to come to a consensus, and I

[Mr. Roche.]

hope within the next 10 or 15 days to be able to come down with firm regulations.

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[Translation]

BILINGUALISM

ALLEGED FAILURE OF EMPLOYEES OF MONTREAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE OFFICE TO COMMUNICATE IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Mr. Jacques L. Trudel (Montreal-Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, but since he is not here, I will direct it to the President of the Treasury Board.

During the past few days, employees of the manpower centres especially have been refusing to answer in either official language when several people applied to obtain information about those centres. I understand there are 300 positions which are designated as bilingual. What I want to know, Mr. Speaker, is whether those designated civil servants, who have been appointed to answer inquiries by the public, are refusing to answer them, or if, due to miscalculation, not enough people were hired to provide services in either official language. If so, can we expect people who can provide the services which the population expects to be appointed at superior positions, or at positions where they have to answer inquiries by the public, as soon as possible?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, we are now inquiring into that subject. It is a fairly complex problem, because there may be bilingual as well as unilingual positions in the same office. It is a matter of identifying the incumbents of both lines of positions. But I said yesterday, and I say it again, we shall take disciplinary action against those who are in bilingual positions and refuse to provide service in either official language.

Mr. Trudel: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary? Could the President of the Treasury Board tell us how many bilingual positions are now vacant in those services, and whether that situation prevents the Canadian population from getting proper service in either of the official languages, which it has a right to expect?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I cannot obviously answer now with respect to the number of bilingual positions. I shall inquire into that matter and report to the hon. member.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON EXPORT OF ARMS TO TURKEY

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs although I think it also concerns the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It has been reported from Ankara that Canadian arms dealers are seeking orders in Turkey for the sale of ammunition and other war ma-