

suggestions made by the chief of the defence staff last evening on television. Can the Prime Minister indicate to the House whether or not the government has entered into any negotiations with the government of France with respect, first, to the sale of additional arms to that country and, second, with respect to the opening up of one of our defence bases on the east coast for a summer fleet base for the French navy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am not aware of that. This matter comes under the Minister of National Defence. I will ask him to report to the House on it, if asked, when he next returns.

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[Translation]

FISHERIES

CANADIAN SALTFISH CORPORATION POLICY RESPECTING PRICES TO FISHERMEN

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary of the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry whether he is able to answer a question that I put to him last Wednesday?

[English]

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): I am informed that the Canadian Saltfish Corporation was acting under powers given to it under a provincial Act respecting the marketing of salt fish passed on April 28, 1970. In section 2, the provincial Act provides that no person other than the corporation or an agent of the corporation shall buy salt fish. Therefore, no private firm can engage in this trade, even if the price they pay is greater than the initial price paid by an agent of the corporation.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

EFFECTS OF POSSIBLE INCREASE IN OIL PRICES

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It arises from the statement made by western Canadian oilmen that they expect an over-all price increase of between 25 and 40 cents a barrel for their product, depending on the government's policies. I should like to ask the minister whether he has been looking into the effects which such an increase would have on consumer prices and, if not, whether he intends to do so?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I am not aware of the statement but I will search it out and see what ramifications it has for my department.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

NEWFOUNDLAND—INVESTIGATION OF BUS ACCIDENTS, QUALITY OF SERVICE

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): I have a question for the Parliamentary Secretary or the acting Minister of Transport. Could the department investigate the serious accident to a Canadian National bus in Newfoundland yesterday, and could the investigation include several previous accidents, as well as the general quality of the bus transportation system serving the whole province?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I will get in touch with the Minister of Transport immediately and I hope that when he is in the House tomorrow he will be able to deal with that very serious question.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

EFFECT OF NATURAL GAS EXPORT AGREEMENT ON CANADIAN PRICES

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether he has had a chance to check into the effect the recent agreement with the United States on the export of natural gas has had on consumer prices in Canada and, if so, when will he report to the House?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): That is a matter that is properly within the jurisdiction of the National Energy Board. I am not quite sure to what the question refers. The sale was approved by them and the effect on domestic supplies is outlined in the report of the National Energy Board.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

HIRING OF UNITED STATES CITIZEN AS PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): In the absence of the Secretary of State, I will put my question to his Parliamentary Secretary. Will he see that an inquiry is made of the CBC to determine whether or not all other possibilities were exhausted before a U.S. citizen was hired as chief public relations officer for the corporation?

Mr. James Hugh Faulkner (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): I will pass that question on to the corporation.

Mr. Broadbent: Would he also inquire whether or not this U.S. citizen was, until recently, an employee of the U.S. consulate?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Orders of the day.