

who have not been convicted of a crime. Thus, there is no prospect of ever considering a pardon in this particular case.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, if there was an agreement in writing between those voluntary exiles when they left the country because of that crime of kidnapping a foreign representative, would the minister file in the House any agreement between those people and the federal government?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I was not involved at the time of that kidnapping. Whether or not there were agreements made in writing, I am not aware of them. I do not believe there were, but I will inquire into it.

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FISHERIES

REASON FOR FAILURE TO MENTION FISHERIES POLICY IN THRONE SPEECH

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. In view of the need for an extensive fisheries development plan in Atlantic Canada, which plan would take into consideration the need for improving the inshore as well as the offshore fleet, especially as it applies to the harvesting of those species of fish which we are now giving away to foreigners within our 200-mile zone, will the minister indicate to the House why there was no mention of a fisheries policy for Canada in yesterday's throne speech?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, there are many issues which will arise in this parliament and the administrative acts of this government that were not mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. I hope the hon. member does not share the view of some of those who advocate that we give away at the back door or the side door the jurisdiction which we have painfully gained by the front door.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INDUSTRY

MINING—REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that policies of this government regarding the mining industry in Canada are creating ghost towns in Canada, and particularly in the Sudbury basin where 4,000 Falconbridge workers just returned to work after a six-week lay-off, where INCO is presently threatening extensive lay-offs and cutbacks and Falconbridge has announced the loss of 500 jobs by the end of December, 1977, is the minister

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aware of the severe situation in the mining industry, particularly the nickel and copper industries? Can he tell the House what specific steps he intends to take so that we do not end up with ghost towns in the Sudbury basin that not even a taxation data centre can save?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this question and I should like to reveal to the hon. member and to the House the deep concern the government has with regard to the complete mineral industry. As he knows, as I know and as the House is probably aware, the entire world market for minerals today is one we would call very soft. We are exploring every avenue to ensure that jobs are maintained in Canada.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that stockpiling both uranium and gold was used in the past by this government to secure the employment of workers in those industries, is the minister prepared to consider such a program in the nickel and copper industries in order to secure the continued employment and productivity of these workers in the Sudbury basin?

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, this whole suggestion is being examined.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT VIEW OF MEASURES TO ENSURE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that the Speech from the Throne was empty of any reference to Canada's role in international affairs, does the minister support the formal declaration of the United States and the Soviet Union that a new Middle East peace conference should ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have been in constant discussion and consultation with the governments concerned on this whole question. As the hon. member knows, there is considerable argument about the specific meaning of words. I do not believe anything would be gained by me emphasizing particular words such as "legitimate" or "homeland". The Canadian position is precisely what it has been all along. We recognize that the Palestinian position must be taken into account in any settlement. We feel that settlement is best arrived at through discussion between all the parties, hopefully at Geneva, and if not there, elsewhere.

● (1452)

Mr. Wenman: In view of the minister's recognition of the importance of the Middle East as the central issue in the United Nations this year and his call for, "short, precise and