

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Crestohl: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This motion is not debatable. It is a motion for an order of the house to issue in respect of certain papers. It is not debatable, and the only course is to accept or reject the motion. I am advised by the Clerk that that is the method of disposing of such a motion as this. I ask, then, whether it is the pleasure of the house to adopt the same motion.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it. I declare the motion lost.

Motion negatived.

TRADE

URANIUM—REQUEST FOR NEGOTIATIONS FOR SALE TO JAPAN

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he will consider initiating or pressing for the initiation of bilateral conversations with the Japanese government which would make possible the sale of Canadian uranium to that country, and thereby prevent the loss of this market to uranium producers in other countries.

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will be very happy to discuss that question with my colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who is also interested.

FISHERIES

REPORTED REGULATION OF NET SIZE ON DRAGGERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. According to yesterday's press, regulations now make it unlawful for Canadian deep sea fishermen to carry both large and small nets on their dragnets. Nets must now be one size or the other, with penalties for infringement ranging up to \$1,000, or imprisonment, or both.

Will the minister advise how this regulation will be enforced upon foreign shipping fishing on Canada's banks off the east coast of Newfoundland, or does this only apply to Canadian fishing dragnets?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I think it is superfluous for me to say that this government has no jurisdiction over foreign vessels fishing on the high

[Mr. Chevrier.]

seas. However, there is a convention among most of the countries interested in fishing in the northwest Atlantic, the international convention for the northwest Atlantic fisheries, and the countries who subscribe to it set up by mutual agreement certain regulations as to net sizes and other conservation measures. The various countries concerned take the responsibility for enforcing these regulations as far as their nationals are concerned.

I am answering this question off the cuff, and if my information is not complete, or is incorrect, I will add to the answer tomorrow.

FINANCE

LUMBER—REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST TARIFF INCREASE ON SOFTWOOD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, with due decorum I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister received a protest from the British Columbia lumber manufacturers' association, supported by the British Columbia interior lumber manufacturers' association, against a recent decision of the Canadian tariff board in appeal No. 446, which results in an increase in duty on softwood lumber imported into Canada from the United States from 7½ per cent to 20 per cent?

In view of the serious repercussions this decision will have on the lumber industry in British Columbia—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has asked his question. He is now, apparently, about to make a statement on the subject.

Mr. Herridge: I am just going to ask the question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister consider an immediate investigation into the situation and take action in the best interests of the lumber industry and the employees concerned?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, representations, as I think they should be called rather than protests, have been received from the association with reference to this particular decision of the tariff board, and the matter is receiving very close study.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ICELAND—EXTENSION OF FISHING LIMITS FOR FOREIGN TRAWLERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester): May I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the recent threat by the Danish islands in the north