

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

POLLUTION**BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE—
INQUIRY AS TO CANADIAN POLICY**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is he in a position to tell the House what initiatives Canada is prepared to take as a result of the Brussels conference on oil pollution of the high seas?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the conference is still proceeding. As I indicated to the hon. member a few days ago, the various countries involved are continuing to make their statements and the negotiations are continuing as well. I consider it wiser to wait until the conclusion of the conference, which I believe will be one week from today, in order to find out exactly what agreement, if any, is reached at that time. As I have indicated in previous answers, if it should turn out that no definitive agreement is reached at that conference we are prepared to consider action in regard to territorial waters along the lines proposed.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. It is very simple and direct. Will the minister make a statement to the House at the conclusion of this conference and set out Canada's policy?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker; as soon as possible after that date.

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a further supplementary question. The implications of my question are important. Would the Minister of Transport consent to invite Members of Parliament to his next press briefing so that we may obtain as much information about his negotiations as members of the press obtain?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and if the hon. gentleman would like to have lunch with me some day I will give him the whole story any time he wants it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, may I say on a question of privilege that I can well afford to pay for my own lunch. Ignoring that point for a moment, may I say that questions were raised in the House earlier this week about the minister's trip. At that time he refused to make any statement to the House, discuss the subject or make a statement on motions. We

[Mr. Speaker.]

found out, however, that on that very afternoon at a press meeting the minister disclosed the nature of his trip. Information was given to the press before members of the House were advised—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

VIOLENT DISTURBANCES**MONTREAL—SUGGESTED USE OF ARMED
FORCES BOMB DISPOSAL EXPERTS**

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Would the hon. gentleman arrange to have bomb disposal experts of the Canadian Armed Forces available for instant dispatch to the city of Montreal should the situation warrant such action?

INDUSTRY**POTASH—INQUIRY AS TO MEETING
WITH PRODUCERS**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Have the minister or his officials now had an opportunity to meet with the potash producers? Could he also indicate what progress has been made in resolving outstanding problems?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the regulations will be issued today in Regina, I understand. I am informed that they are concerned mostly with matters of conservation and proration. An advance copy was apparently made available to the Department of Justice. It was studied yesterday and the study is continuing today. It has to do with the legality, the constitutionality, of the regulations. It is too early yet for me to comment on that.

With respect to the economics of the regulations, I can only observe that the governor of New Mexico said yesterday: "I think it saved the industry in Carlsbad." That worries me a little.

Mr. Burton: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I take it from the minister's answer that he has not yet determined if the price guarantee arrangements which have been reached informally or semi-formally in fact apply to producers outside of Canada and whether in fact the interests of Canadian producers are adequately protected?