

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

much preferred to have seen this question debated on the estimates of the Department of Justice.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## AID TO UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. O. White (Middlesex East):** I should like to direct a question to the government. Is the government aware of the failure of the Galt Knitting Company after 74 years of continuous operation? In view of the external affairs debate today, will the government assure Canadian labour and industry continuous prosperity so as to enable the government to maintain aid, through taxation, to less favoured nations of the world?

**Mr. Speaker:** This question is so general in character—

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is possible to answer that question on the orders of the day. I think it would require more time than could be devoted to the answer to a question on the orders of the day.

**FISHERIES**

## NEWFOUNDLAND—INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF FLOOR PRICES

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Robert H. Winters (Acting Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) referred to a statement in the press captioned "Newfoundland Fisheries under Ottawa Ruling", and asked for certain information on the new arrangement.

The statement to which the hon. member referred was based on a press release issued on Monday, March 22, by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Sinclair). This release followed discussions between representatives of the government of Canada and the government of Newfoundland concerning the marketing of Newfoundland salted codfish.

Under the new arrangements, particularly those respecting NAFEL, the proposal is that the Newfoundland salt-fish merchants at the beginning of the season shall undertake to pay minimum prices to fishermen and to agree on a system of profit sharing dependent on the final outcome of export sales. This will be an agreement between merchants and fishermen and does not mean floor prices in the sense that they would be guaranteed by the government.

The statement also said that prices would be reviewed by the fisheries prices support [Mr. Speaker.]

board at the end of the marketing year. This, of course, is in line with government policy and represents no change.

**EXCISE TAX**

## SUGGESTED REMOVAL FROM CARBONATED BEVERAGES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. F. S. Zaplitny (Dauphin):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister received representations from bottlers of carbonated beverages calling for the removal of the excise tax from their product? If so, is the minister taking these representations into consideration in preparing the proposed new budget?

**Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance):** The answer to both questions is in the affirmative, Mr. Speaker.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

## REQUEST FOR CHANGES TO COVER SHORT DAY WEEK

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, may I refer to the question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt). Other members of the house have also asked me similar questions privately. His question was:

... would the minister take into consideration making either appropriate changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act or appropriate changes in its present administration in order that industrial employees working on a short day week may receive full benefits under the act?

My answer is as follows. One of the principles on which the contribution and benefit structure of the Unemployment Insurance Act is based is that the insured person assumes part of the risk, and no benefits are paid for short periods of unemployment.

In carrying out this principle, there are two provisions in the Unemployment Insurance Act. The first is the waiting period of five days at the beginning of every benefit year during which no benefit is paid.

The second provision is that no benefit is paid for any period of unemployment of one day, or for the first day in any period of unemployment, consisting of two or more consecutive days, subject to the following exceptions:

- (1) There will not be more than one non-compensable day in a week, and
- (2) No non-compensable day will be charged in any week in which the claimant worked for three days or less for an employer other than his regular employer.

In the case of employees who normally work five days a week, and whose work week