

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

tions for contempt of court in order to allow a judge other than the presiding judge to make an objective decision as to whether or not a statement made by a witness or an accused is in contempt of court? Does not the minister believe that this formula would prevent some accused who intentionally insult the court from claiming that the judge is biased against them?

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, it is certainly not—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I apologize to the minister who wants to reply to the hon. member for Charlevoix.

[English]

I understood that the hon. member for Athabasca was rising on a question of privilege. He should be given priority. Before he is recognized I should bring to the attention of hon. members that we are running short of time. We had a mini-debate on oil policy which took up quite a bit of time and we should move along as quickly as possible.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to interrupt the proceedings but the translation was interrupted. There is no translation coming through at all.

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** The Solicitor General has the floor.

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, I am so far not aware that delegates to a political conference have made any decision on this matter one way or another. But it is certainly not up to adepts of urban guerilla to dictate priorities to the government. The government has stated what its priorities were concerning the Criminal Code and I believe they are well known.

**Mr. Asselin:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister not feel that would be one way to preserve the dignity of our courts and upgrade the role of our judges which is deteriorating disturbingly in Montreal now?

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[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****GEORGES BANK—PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the dispute between Canada and the United States over sovereignty claims on Georges Bank, which lies midway between Yarmouth and Cape Cod, Massachusetts, has any progress been made or agreement reached that the median line, as set out in the 1958 Geneva Convention, is the accepted international boundary? I ask this question in view of the environmental hazards of offshore oil investi-

[Mr. Asselin.]

gation and the need for establishing pollution control regulations in the area.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the discussions are still continuing but that no agreement has been reached.

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact it was 13 years ago as a result of the Geneva Conference that these discussions began, when can we expect the jurisdictional dispute regarding Georges Bank to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, just as soon as the United States agrees with our point of view we can settle it immediately. There is a problem between us and we are trying hard to reach an amicable settlement.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister would stop giving us this kind of nonsense and begin exercising a little bit of initiative.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are running short of time.

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**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION****CONSULTATION WITH SECRETARY OF STATE'S DEPARTMENT REGARDING ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACT ON PROGRAM "WEEKEND"**

**Mr. Jean-R. Roy (Timmins):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. In his absence I will direct it to the minister responsible. Following the program "Weekend" of last Sunday evening concerning the drug problem in Canada, would the minister inform the House whether his department was consulted regarding the showing of an illegal act on national television, namely, two young girls self-injecting drugs in their veins, and were these performers paid for their participation?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will see that this question is brought to the minister's attention.

**Mr. Roy (Timmins):** Will the minister make inquiries and advise if the staging of an illegal act on national television contravenes the law of this country or—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That question is not in order.

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**CONSUMER AFFAIRS****INTENTION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TELEPHONE COMPANY TO INCREASE RATES—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION**

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey):** Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs but in his absence perhaps you would allow