

this House is to operate as a parliamentary institution. My understanding is that the hon. member has withdrawn, and I am sure he will want to confirm this for my peace of conscience.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, I will be quite happy to withdraw provided the minister clarifies—

**Mr. Olson:** There are no provisions or conditions.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member cannot conditionally withdraw. I do not want to make an issue of this, but the hon. member should very simply indicate that he has withdrawn. This is my understanding in any event, and I do not feel it is necessary to pursue the matter.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, if he would simply indicate—

**Mr. Olson:** No provisions.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** —that the price was artificially inflated—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are obviously not profiting from this exchange. I take the liberty to bring to the attention of hon. members that this is why we get into difficulty from time to time, in fact perhaps every day during the question period. Many hon. members and, I suggest, very often the same hon. members, from day to day take what I consider very honestly more time than we ought to take on points of order, and that is unfair—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** —to many other hon. members seeking the floor. This is not a very tragic matter. The hon. member knows and we all know there are certain things we should not do. Sometimes in the heat of argument the words we use are a little stronger and go beyond our thought. The hon. member has said he did not want to charge the minister with deliberately misleading the House. This is what he said, and he cannot say it conditionally. I am sure he agrees with this. I point out that we have already taken three or four minutes of the time on this point, and I would hope we could now be allowed to go to the next question.

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• (1500)

#### FISHERIES

##### SWORDFISH—NEGOTIATIONS WITH WASHINGTON RESPECTING RESTORATION OF MARKET

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, may I put some fish with those chips on the parliamentary plate and ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the Minister of the Environment and Minister of Fisheries whether there are active negotiations with Washington to meet the petition of Nova Scotia swordfishermen which was recently sent to the federal government and, if so, are these negotiations being handled by our embassy in Washington or from Ottawa?

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

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#### NATIONAL REVENUE

##### ALLEGED DUMPING OF NETHERLANDS STARCH IN CANADA

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque):** I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Revenue. Has the minister taken any action to inquire into allegations that starch is being dumped in Canada from the Netherlands, thus making difficult the diversion of surplus potatoes?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I have had a representative of the department visit the producer in New Brunswick who made a complaint about this matter, and as a result there has been a certain amount of investigation. The department has now obtained sufficient information upon which to decide whether there are grounds for initiating a formal investigation under the anti-dumping legislation. I shall make an announcement very soon.

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#### TRANSPORT

##### REPRESENTATIONS BY MINISTER TO RAILWAYS TO PURCHASE MORE EQUIPMENT TO MOVE GRAIN

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that every year representations are made to him to request the railways to make larger purchases of equipment, including locomotives, for moving grain, potatoes, and so on, can the minister tell the House whether he has made such representations? If he has, what kind of response has he received from the railways? Also, will he advise the House what priority Canadian National Railways are giving, in view of the \$42 million to be provided under the bill we have been debating, to the purchase of locomotives and equipment suitable for grain movement?

**Mr. Forrestall:** Can the rest of us make a speech too?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I am very anxious to answer the hon. member, but it appears that hon. members opposite are not anxious to hear it.

**An hon. Member:** Don't take as much time as the member did.

**Mr. Jamieson:** On the question of making representations to the railways, the answer is yes. We have not only made representations but there has been considerable discussion with Canadian National in recent weeks on the question of providing sufficient cars primarily for grain. I can report to the House that a good deal of progress has been made. I am not sure of the percentage of the \$42