

Oral Questions

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that is one of the many elements for consideration in my recommendations to the Minister of Finance.

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[Translation]

FISHERIES**ALLEGED HERRING FISHING BY FOREIGN VESSELS IN TERRITORIAL WATERS**

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of State for Fisheries.

Did the minister or officials of his department receive complaints from Îles-de-la-Madeleine fishermen about ships flying the French flag and fishing herring in the 12-mile territorial zone near the Îles-de-la-Madeleine and, if so, what action does he intend to take?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet received any such information, but I shall look into it as soon as I leave the House and submit a reply to the hon. member later on.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE**NITROGEN FERTILIZER—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PROTECT SUPPLY IN VIEW OF INCREASING PRICE OF NATURAL GAS**

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the energy crisis and the increasing price of natural gas, may I ask the minister what policies are being developed to guard against diminished nitrogen fertilizer supplies in this country?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the National Energy Board has conducted an extensive series of hearings and is now in the process of preparation of a projection of Canadian natural gas supplies for the next ten years. I think he will have a better idea when that report becomes public as to the state of our supply and perhaps the action can be taken.

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● (1450)

NATIONAL DEFENCE**GRENADES MISSING IN TRANSIT FROM DUNDURN, SASKATCHEWAN TO CHILLIWACK, B.C.—INQUIRY AS TO SECURITY MEASURES**

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of National Defence to advise the House of the details surrounding the reported theft of a number of grenades in transit from Dundurn, Saskatchewan, to Canadian Forces Base Chilliwack and, in response

to a telephone call, their discovery in various locations in the city of Chilliwack.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the grenades which were missing for a short period of time have all been located and are in safe custody.

Mr. Patterson: In view of the minister's answer, I now wish to ask what security measures are taken by the Department of National Defence or the Department of Transport when such transfers are being carried out.

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, the highest possible degree of security is taken, particularly when handling explosive weapons of that kind.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VIET NAM—POSSIBILITY OF REPRESENTATIONS TO HANOI CONCERNING SAFETY OF NORMAN AND JOAN JOHNSON**

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the government's decision to refrain from any protests about the aggression of communist forces in South Viet Nam on the excuse that this might endanger the safety of Canadians in that country, have any representations been made to the Hanoi government about the safety of Norman and Joan Johnson, two missionaries from Hamilton, Ontario, who are believed to have been captured at least a month ago by the Viet Cong?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might be permitted to answer this question since I have the information for the hon. member. He will recall that when we contacted the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam through their representatives in Paris, we were referred to one of their earlier statements in which they offered assurance that all foreigners in South Viet Nam not engaged in military activities would be well treated. More recently we have received information from other sources indicating that Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are alive and in good health. Although they are being detained in a prisoner of war camp, I understand that Mr. Johnson is being allowed to do some missionary work during day-time hours. Our efforts to secure their release are, of course, continuing.

Mr. O'Sullivan: I wish to ask specifically whether our government, through our representatives in Hanoi, have made specific representations to the Hanoi government, the central command, about the release of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, in keeping with the statement the minister just made. Are they going to live up to that statement?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member does not think there is any distinction whatever between the North Vietnamese and the PRG. If he knew more about it, he would be more careful in the use of his words. We believe it is more effective to deal with the PRG at the present time than to deal with the North Vietnamese.