

are to be raised in the capitals of the countries where we have representation.

Mr. Stanfield: Am I to understand that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has issued these invitations, these instructions, today? Is there any explanation as to what the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Department of External Affairs have been doing for the past week since the Arab countries announced their cuts? What has he been doing to find out whether this policy applies to Canada? We have been asking questions in the House about it.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, until we received this news today, this was the first indication we have had that this policy would apply to Canada in any way, and we are not even sure whether it is a policy or whether there is some other explanation.

Mr. Stanfield: Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who is now Acting Prime Minister, explain to the House what the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources meant when he said that Canada was trying to find out from the international community—he said this one week ago—whether this applied to Canada?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, needless to say, I do not have to answer for my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I can assure the hon. gentleman that this is the first indication we have had from any source whatever that Canada might be included. Perhaps my hon. friend wants Canada to be included; we do not.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Sharp: Therefore, we are not taking the position that any decision—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: You have just begun to fight.

Mr. Sharp: We are not taking the position that the Arab countries have made such a decision. We hope that is not the case, and we believe this is the best way of pursuing the matter. We do not believe that there should be any policy of confrontation, no matter what the hon. member suggests.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, if, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs today has suggested, the best policy was to ask no questions, what did the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources mean by indicating to the House several times last week that the government was trying to find out from the international community what the position was?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

SUGGESTED CONSULTATION WITH INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS TO DETERMINE OIL DELIVERY POLICY

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of

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State for External Affairs in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister. As the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources referred merely to contacting Canadian companies and Canadian refineries, while in fact it is international corporations that decide where oil supplies are to come from and where they are to be delivered, will the Acting Prime Minister contact directly the head offices of multinational corporations such as Exxon, where these decisions are made?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if that is necessary, we will do so, but I believe that the Canadian government should deal with Canadian companies. We certainly object when foreign governments deal with Canadian companies directly. This is the policy that has received widespread support throughout Canada, and still continues to do so. We will act here as the government of Canada dealing with Canadian companies.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

POSSIBLE LOOSENING OF REGULATIONS APPLYING TO NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMEN—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Yesterday, in reply to a question asked by the hon. member for York East, the President of the Privy Council agreed to give consideration to the introduction of legislation with respect to the tightening up of unemployment insurance. Can the Minister of Manpower and Immigration now tell the House what plans he has to loosen up the regulations which apply to Newfoundland fishermen?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I would be interested in getting the hon. member's recommendation. If he can bring forward specific cases in which he feels that my people are being unfair in dealing with claims involving Newfoundland fishermen, I will be glad to look into them. Generally speaking, my understanding is that that is not the case, but I will be glad to consider specific cases.

Mr. Carter: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What action has the minister taken on the recommendations of the President of the Newfoundland Fishermen, Food and Allied Workers Union in that regard?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, consultations have been taking place and there has been consideration and examination of the benefit policy relating to fishermen which, as you know and as the hon. member knows, is quite separate, and was intended to be separate at the beginning, from the general Unemployment Insurance Act. This is being examined. If and when a new policy is determined, it will be announced in the usual manner.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for a supplementary, and then the hon. member for Elgin.