

wonder whether the minister would consider making an early statement on motions indicating the cause of this curious situation?

Mr. Speaker: I gather the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate has a supplementary to a previous question.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GEORGES BANK—OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION PERMITS—CANADIAN RESPONSE TO UNITED STATES POSITION

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs is now in a position to respond to a question that he took as notice on Friday regarding Canada's latest response to the United States position on Georges Bank?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Canada's response to the position that was quoted by the hon. member was to the effect that the United States had already acquiesced in the issuance of the permits in question since in 1964 Canada began issuing oil and gas permits in the Georges Bank area on the basis of the median line principle established by the 1958 Geneva Continental Shelf Convention to which Canada and the U.S.A. are both parties. Canada notified the United States in writing of the issuance of these permits and received a written reply indicating United States acquiescence in this action. We were thus surprised when in late 1969 the United States indicated it did not acquiesce in, or recognize the validity of, such permits.

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POLLUTION

TREAT POSED BY TANKER TRANSPORT OF OIL FROM VALDEZ, ALASKA, TO CHERRY POINT, WASHINGTON

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the hearings in Washington yesterday on the proposed Alaskan pipeline and the remarks of the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich to the effect that the Canadian anti-submarine role in continental defence might be affected if the United States persisted in their proposed oil tanker route along the west coast without full consultation with Canada, may I ask the minister whether this statement reflects government policy?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker it is my understanding that the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich spoke in his own right as a Member of Parliament. I do hope that other Members of Parliament will follow his example from time to time, particularly on questions of this kind. He made this statement without consultation with the government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Harding: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will allow the hon. member a supplementary, but I must advise the House that I did not grasp the full import of the question asked by the hon. member. He knows that he cannot ask whether a statement made by a member, as a member, outside the House represents government policy. That type of question should normally be asked in a direct manner. However, since the question has been asked the hon. member may put a supplementary.

Mr. Harding: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister did not answer the question. Is the government prepared to take into account any of the bilateral agreements that we now have with the United States in an effort to persuade the United States government to hold full consultations with Canada regarding the danger that the oil tanker route from Valdez, Alaska, to Cherry Point, Washington, poses to our entire west coast area?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to do so and I will be doing so. I think it is important, however, that the people in that area, whether they live in Canada or the United States, should speak out now on this issue which affects their futures more particularly than the futures of those in other parts of the two countries.

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AIR TRANSPORT

CHARTER SERVICES—POSITION OF WARDAIR FOLLOWING TRANSPORT COMMISSION RULING

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. On a number of occasions I have addressed questions concerning the ruling of the CTC as it affected Wardair of Edmonton. I wonder whether the minister is now in a position to say if the situation has been resolved, or what action has yet to be taken in order to bring it to a head?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this is a rather difficult question for reasons which the hon. member will appreciate. In the first instance, an appeal has been lodged with me and has not been yet disposed of. Therefore, so far as the appeal itself is concerned I am not free to make any comment. In the interim, however, I understand that Wardair has filed with the commission certain evidence to support their ability to cover deposits and the like, and it is my understanding that they will be able to continue operations as usual beyond the extended period granted, which was till March 1.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): When does the minister think he will be in a position to give a decision on the appeal?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I seem to remember that it was only two or three days ago that the formal appeal came in. The notice of appeal was filed two or three