

crude oil carrier through the Strait of Juan de Fuca in January, contrary to the marine mammals protection act and various United States federal regulations. Will the minister tell the House whether he supports this individual project for a crude carrier to come through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and, if so, is he now supporting the Trans Mountain or the northern tier project?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, I have not given my support to this project which, on the basis of information given to me, I understand is one that is taking place entirely in American waters.

NAVIGATION AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURE TESTS

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is he aware of the navigation and emergency procedure tests which are being planned for January by this oversized supertanker? Was the minister consulted, and what is he doing to inform the United States administration of our opposition to these plans?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, we have not made an objection to this specific trial run for the reason that it is not only within American waters, as my hon. colleague said, but also because on this occasion it will be carrying sea water rather than oil. So there is no possible danger on this occasion, but we have made it known frequently to the American authorities that we are very concerned about the possibility of tankers containing oil using the strait. Certainly we are not abandoning that position; we are pressing it strongly with Washington.

INQUIRY WHETHER PROTEST MADE TO UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Minister of State for Science and Technology and the Minister of the Environment, or to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Despite the acknowledged fact that these experiments can be carried out in United States waters, there are several related facts which ought to be borne in mind. First, that the currents carry northward from where the experiments will be taking place; second, that if these experiments are conducted without protest, it virtually forecloses any possibility of preventing the real supertankers from coming in. I ask all three ministers if they will rise in unison and say that they will protest—

Miss MacDonald: They would never agree.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): They could not speak with one voice, that is true. Why has no protest been made in

this instance? It is sea water being carried, but they are not refining sea water, they are refining petroleum.

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, we have by no means given away our position—

An hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacGuigan: No, we have not.

Mr. Nielsen: What position?

Mr. MacGuigan: —with respect to the passage in these waters of oil tankers. Our position is one of great concern which we have communicated consistently and persistently to the American authorities. But we believe we should protest voyages which can cause damage. This trip is an experimental one within United States waters by a tanker carrying a cargo of sea water. I ask my hon. friend how it is possible to make a formal objection to that kind of voyage.

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[Translation]

FISHERIES

STRINGENT INSPECTION STANDARDS FOR EASTERN CANADA SEA PRODUCTS

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The quality of fish remains a problem in eastern Canada and several factors are involved, such as the nets that are used and the storage of catches both on boats and on shore. It seems that for several years now the fish industry has shown greater concern for quantity than quality. Does the minister intend to adopt more severe inspection standards to improve the quality of our sea products?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for putting his question: it gives me the opportunity to answer highly erroneous articles published recently. The truth of the matter is that at times the quality of our fish production is not constant; foreign buyers not being advised of this, they do not know whether they are dealing with fish of prime or inferior quality. We intend to introduce a permit system that would set the standards to be respected in processing plants as well as on the boats that deliver fish to the plants. In that way, instead of having a problem in the future, we will, on the contrary, build up the Canadian reputation in the field of fish exports.