

to use unemployment, as he puts it. Unemployment is the unfortunate consequence of the fact that the economies of many other nations with which we trade have been in a very soft position in the past year and also because in Canada we are facing difficult economic problems. I can assure the hon. member that when he hears the budget speech in less than two weeks' time he will see that we are attempting to deal at the same time with the problem of high unemployment and inflation.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister said that the government is not trying to use high unemployment in order to try to curb inflation and I am very glad to have his assurance on that. As unemployment has remained at this very high level for a full quarter, and the Prime Minister implies that the government is really trying to reduce it, does the government not feel that it is capable of putting forward more effective measures than the ones which have failed to do the job of reducing unemployment during these last three months?

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE REQUEST BY RED CHINA FOR SUPPORT OF EFFORT TO EXPEL TAIWAN FROM OLYMPICS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Was the Department of External Affairs approached by the Red Chinese embassy to support their lobby to expel Taiwan from the Olympics, and what was the department's decision?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Paproski: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Did the Red Chinese embassy or an official from the embassy discuss with the Secretary of State for External Affairs the decision of the Taiwanese as far as the Olympics were concerned?

Mr. MacEachen: No, Mr. Speaker, I have had no consultation on this point with the embassy at all. I understand the matter of membership is entirely within the jurisdiction of the International Olympic Committee. My understanding is that the application that has been made is under review and has not been finally dealt with by the International Olympic Committee.

Mr. Paproski: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If and when the Red Chinese embassy does approach the minister, would the minister tell us exactly what his decision will be?

Oral Questions

FISHERIES

REASON MINISTER NOT ATTENDING ICNAF CONFERENCE

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Fisheries. Yesterday in response to a question put to him by my colleague the hon. member for St. John's East regarding the ICNAF conference which begins today in Scotland, the minister said, as reported at page 6,548 of *Hansard*:

We shall be making statements at the meeting this week. We shall be putting the facts on the table and we have indicated that if there are further serious violations in the coming months we shall take action.

In light of these rather strong statements, can the minister tell the House why he is not in Scotland attending the meetings where he could make these statements and also perhaps give our delegation the weight of his office to get the quota system for which we are looking.

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, the ICNAF conference is at this stage mainly a conference of scientists who are assessing the condition of the stocks and are looking for reductions of certain species in certain areas. They report to their governments. Our delegation discussed at length the advisability of my going to the conference or not going. There have never been representatives at the ministerial level except that the host country usually has a minister who expresses welcome. We examined all these possibilities and made the judgment that I should not go. I would say that I have absolute confidence in Dr. Needler, my personal adviser who is heading a strong delegation and who has vast experience in this type of negotiation.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. Would the minister confirm to the House that the main reason for his not attending the conference is insistence on the part of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and his fear that the minister will express statements that would be favourable to our fishermen but perhaps undiplomatic at the conference?

● (1430)

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I hope that the hon. member, as he goes through his own province meeting groups of fishermen who realize the good things we have done for them, is not telling them that sort of fairy tale.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO SOUTH KOREA—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF SAFEGUARD AGREEMENT—POSSIBILITY OF INSPECTION BY INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, some weeks ago the Secretary of State for External Affairs promised to consider my request that he table a copy of the bilateral treaty between Canada and the government of South Korea. In view of the fact that last Thursday the Prime Minister said the proposed safeguards were the strictest of those of any member of the international community, and since we cannot gauge the effectiveness of those safeguards unless we have access to the bilateral treaty, I would ask the minister if he is now prepared to make it available to members of the House?