

Inquiries of the Ministry

National Defence which is supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Malpeque. On the basis of the negotiations he has had with the United States government, can he tell the House whether there is any truth in the rumour that the United States naval base at Argentia is to be closed some time in 1970?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think the minister wanted to answer my question. This is a matter of grave concern to the people affected.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the situation but the question as asked is not in order. The hon. member is asking the minister to confirm or deny a rumour. The hon. member will recognize that the question is not in order. Perhaps he might rephrase it.

Mr. Carter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister tell the House whether it is correct that the United States naval station at Argentia is to be closed in mid-1970?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): I am not aware whether it is correct or not correct.

HISTORIC SITES

LOWER FORT GARRY—PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF MILITIA UNIT

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a related question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Could the minister inform the House when all expenses incurred by the Fort Garry Horse militia during its tour of duty for the Historic Sites and Monuments Board at Lower Fort Garry last summer will be met by his department?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question should be placed on the order paper.

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I ask this question because of its urgency. A number of these militiamen are university students who worked during the summer for—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. In view of the explanation given by the hon. member, perhaps the minister might like to reply.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. [Mr. Carter.]

Speaker, I know the problem and am pleased to report to the hon. member that discussions are now under way and we hope to arrive at a conclusion today or tomorrow.

[English]

CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

WATERS OF ARCTIC ARCHIPELAGO

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Coast Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister related to the report filed today by the Indian Affairs and Northern Development Committee, which recommends that the government declare to the world without delay Canada's full sovereignty over the waters within the Arctic archipelago. When may we expect a definitive statement on this question from the government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, may I remind the House that we did say in the Speech from the Throne we would introduce legislation on this subject in the present session. I expect it will be introduced early in the new year.

POLLUTION

DESIRABILITY OF USE OF OIL TANKERS IN ARCTIC WATERS

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I have a related question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the recent sinking of the Shell Oil tanker S.S. *Marpessa*, the largest ship ever to sink to date and one of a type which I understand would be used to transport Arctic oil, what steps have the government taken to have Canadians present at the investigation into this sinking so that we may better judge whether or not oil tankers in the Arctic are or are not desirable from the point of view of the Canadian people?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, Canada is a member of IMCO, which is the international organization dealing with such matters. I am not sure whether we will have somebody actually involved in the investigation, but we will have full access to the report of the investigation.

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister of Transport now in a position to,