in international controls. But what we do with our own waters is not a matter for discussion at Brussels.

Mr. Baldwin: The government is muddying the waters.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was the Member of Parliament for Don Valley stating the position of the government of Canada when he suggested at the United Nations' political committee that a percentage of each sea, be it Atlantic or Pacific or any other, be set aside for international exploitation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether the question is in order and whether we are not attempting to extend the rule which allows the Prime Minister to comment on statements made by ministers outside the House on questions of government policy. It seems to me that we are at this point attempting to enlarge that general rule.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wished to address a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, but since neither he nor his Parliamentary Secretary are present may I direct it to the acting minister and, hopefully, obtain an answer. To what extent did the government or the minister consult the elected members of the territorial council of the Northwest Territories in the preparation of that puny document which was issued there the other day?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member may wish to rephrase his question since I do not think it was put in the proper form.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, will the acting minister tell us whether the elected members of the territorial council of the Northwest Territories were consulted in the preparation of the speech which the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development made on Monday?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I think the minister will be returning to the House on Friday and I will draw the hon. member's observation to his attention.

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): A supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister indicate whether the statement made in the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory is the last statement with respect to gradual progress toward more autonomy in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories or is a further statement anticipated, particularly in view of the fact that next year is the centennial of the Northwest Territories?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer the question in detail, but I did see an early draft of the minister's speech. To the extent that he adhered to it I could say that it is a statement of government policy.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

HAL BANKS—POSITION OF EXTRADITION APPLICATION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I had intended to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question, as today is an appointed day for him to be in the House, but in his absence I will address it to the Prime Minister. In view of the statement by Mr. George Aldrich, the legal adviser to the United States State Department, in his memorandum to the minister that "our embassy in Ottawa advises that the Canadian federal government does not have any great interest in reopening the case", would the minister take the first opportunity on motions to outline to the House where its application for the extradition of Hal Banks now stands?

A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister is not going to answer.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think this question should be—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Goyer: I do not think this will be necessary after I have said that I feel this question should be directed to the Minister of Justice.

[*English*]

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, can I ask anyone who has nerve enough to answer my question? I am willing to listen. If the Minister of Justice would like to have a go at it, let him try.