

Inquiries of the Ministry

In view of the numerous objections raised and the very serious reservations made in respect of Bill C-176, could the minister tell us if he is prepared to make a statement to the effect that a group of producers will not be affected by this legislation unless the majority of its members agree to it?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the indications coming to me and to the provincial governments show that there is far more support for than objection to Bill C-176.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister who reports for the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and arises from the increase in the numbers of the unemployed but the drop in the percentage rate. How many more hundreds of thousands of Canadians will have to be thrown out of work before the percentage rate drops to 3 per cent?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Surrey.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**PROPOSED AMCHITKA UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS—
REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring a question to the attention of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the very welcome news today of the signing by the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union of an agreement to ban nuclear weapons from ocean floors and seabeds, would Canada give consideration to urging the United States to refrain from tests or at least postpone the scheduled massive nuclear tests to take place in the Aleutians area?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all hon. members would like to join the comments which have been made about the signing of the agreement banning nuclear weapons from the ocean floor.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sharp: As hon. members know, we were one of the first countries to sign this agreement yesterday. I do not think, however, it is directly relevant to the forthcoming tests on Amchitka. But I want to say that I hope the United States is reconsidering these tests, not only in light of that particular treaty but also in light of the earthquake in Los Angeles. Because this is a problem that has been of great concern to people all along the Pacific Coast.

[Mr. La Salle.]

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, has the Secretary of State for External Affairs made direct representations to Washington urging that the proposed tests at Amchitka be not proceeded with?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, we have been studying the scientific data that was supplied to us as a result of the previous tests. This data will be examined again in light of recent experience which adds support to the view that tests could result in earthquakes in that part of the world.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister what scientific facts led him to put out that scare statement that atomic explosions have something to do with earthquakes?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, perhaps if the hon. gentleman knew something about the Pacific Coast he would know that there is a fault which leads sometimes to earthquakes, and that an atomic blast could result in triggering an earthquake. I hope he will extend his education and inquire about another part of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacInnis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is proper that a minister of the government should rise and make a statement—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Sit down.

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member should go back to his "fault".

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has risen on a point of order. He should be given an opportunity to explain what the point of order is.

• (3:20 p.m.)

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, the statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs can cause a great deal of concern throughout the United States and other countries where earthquakes are possibilities. I do not think he has the scientific knowledge to back up that statement, and furthermore—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether the hon. member might indicate what the point of order is so that we can proceed as quickly as possible.

Mr. MacInnis: I suggest we had better get out of the House because, if faults cause earthquakes, there is a big fault over there.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.