

behalf of the government, to express an opinion from a legal standpoint. I would not think that the question in those terms is in order.

**Mr. MacInnis:** I am very sorry to rise on another supplementary question, Sir. It arises from your decision. I cannot see how the question I have put to the Prime Minister is in any way asking for a legal opinion, if they know what they are doing—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Simcoe North.

**Mr. MacInnis:** On a point of order—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member for Simcoe North. I will recognize him in a moment. I believe the hon. member has a point of order.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have been trying to secure from this government for the last three years answers in respect of matters which are firmly laid out in legislation. The government has failed to interpret its legislation in this regard. Answering a question by the hon. member for St. John's East, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion this afternoon made the statement that he has no authority—he could have used the word “responsibility”—over other departments. My point of order arises from the statement made on Monday by a member of the government who tried to refer a question relating to unemployment insurance to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. He claimed that the minister had authority to answer the question. There is, therefore, a contradiction between the answer the minister gave today and the statement made in the House on Monday.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There may be contradictions in statements made by ministers, but I suggest to the hon. member that this is not necessarily a matter to be raised by way of a procedural objection.

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#### NATIONAL REVENUE

##### IMPOSITION OF FEDERAL SALES TAX ON SUCARYL AND CYCLAMATES

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare which deals with sucaryl and cyclamates. I realize that this matter comes under two other departments, the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Department of Finance. Nevertheless, cyclamates and sucaryl come under the Food and Drugs Directorate and therefore under the minister. Why has this medication all at once been made subject to federal sales tax, thus increasing the price for many people in chronic ill health, some of whom are having a hard time making ends meet?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, that aspect of the question is not

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my responsibility and I refer it to my colleague, the Minister of National Revenue. With respect to cyclamates in general, as the hon. member may be aware I undertook to make a statement on this question and I will do so shortly.

**Mr. Rynard:** Mr. Speaker, this tax was imposed over a year ago. Have the three ministers concerned done nothing in this area? It has to do with food and drugs.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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#### POLLUTION

##### AIR—PROVISION OF CMHC LOANS AND CAPITAL COST ALLOWANCES FOR INSTALLATION OF ANTI-POLLUTION DEVICES

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Is the government planning to extend the granting of CMHC loans to the installation of anti-pollution devices for emissions into the air?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am not sure whether the question is in order. The minister might reply briefly to the hon. member's question.

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, this is the responsibility of the minister responsible for housing, who is not in the House today. I will bring it to his attention.

**Mr. Harding:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I ought to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Is the government planning to extend capital cost allowances for the installation of anti-pollution devices for emissions into the air? This is a very important question dealing with pollution.

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, we looked at this matter in the budget of last year.

**Mr. Harding:** Mr. Speaker, I repeat my question. Is the government planning to extend capital cost allowances for the installation of anti-pollution devices for emissions into the air?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, we have already done it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Marshall:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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#### FISHERIES

##### DESTRUCTION OF FISHING GEAR BY FOREIGN DRAGGERS

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to take up the time of the House,