

*Oral Questions*

## LOBSTER FARMING—REQUEST FOR MINISTERIAL UNDERTAKING

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister would be in a position today to give a commitment since I have with me petitions from 11 communities in Cape Breton which are all opposed to this farming operation. Would the Minister not do the honourable thing, stand in his place today and give a written undertaking to those fishermen in those communities that there will be no farming operation?

**Mr. Blaikie:** Get your pen out.

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I may feel I can do many things, but I do not know how to stand and give a written undertaking.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## NICARAGUA—UNITED STATES' SUPPORT FOR CONTRAS

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister who will know that President Reagan has recently initiated plans to provide an additional \$100 million in largely military support to the Contras who are fighting to overthrow the legitimately elected Government of Nicaragua. I wonder if the Prime Minister has yet expressed to the President Canada's opposition to this military support for the Contras? If not, will he express our concern about this militarization and outside intervention by the United States when he meets with the President in March?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the position of the Government of Canada, as is well known by the United States administration and by others, is that the basic cause of the situation in Nicaragua and throughout Central America is an economic problem. We think it is unfortunate that that problem has been aggravated by the intrusion of a superpower conflict. That is well known.

In addition to expressing our views, the Government of Canada has, in various countries in that region, tried to contribute by economic development assistance to improve the lot of the people who live there. We intend to continue to do that.

## CANADIAN POSITION

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, the question is really whether or not the Government approves the giving of military aid to the Contras and I would like a direct reply to that question.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the question is really whether it is the

purpose of the foreign policy of a sovereign country to give lectures to others, or to act within our own capacity to achieve the results we can achieve. We believe it is our business to do our business, and we are doing it.

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● (1450)

## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

## LOCATION OF UNITED STATES NUCLEAR WASTE DUMPS

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. The United States is investigating the possibilities of storing nuclear wastes in underground storage dumps, most of which are along the Canada-U.S. border. Will the Minister assure the House that he will insist upon full Canadian consultation and agreement before such dumps are constructed?

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, yes, I think the position of the Government of Canada is clear. Certainly it has been made clear to American officials. When I met with my counterpart, Lee Thomas, the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, on October 17, I put Canada's position to him, as did the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Secretary of State for External Affairs to their respective counterparts. We oppose the location of such plants close to the Canadian border, especially if preparatory field work would be required in this country. That position is clear, and it will remain so.

**Mr. Blaikie:** They are doing it in Epp's riding.

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## RAILWAYS

## FUTURE OF NEWFOUNDLAND RAILWAY—GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In today's *The Globe and Mail*, and indeed in Newfoundland's press yesterday, the most senior ranking Conservative of the House of Commons from Newfoundland, the Hon. Member for St. John's East, is quoted as saying that the Government of Newfoundland ought to stop pretending that the railway in Newfoundland has a future and should make a deal with the federal Government to close it down in exchange for highways moneys. Does the view expressed by the Hon. Member for St. John's East indeed reflect the attitude of the Government of the day in respect of the Newfoundland Railway?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I think it reflects the attitude and the position of the Hon. Member who just posed the question. The Government is discussing the broader issues of transportation in Newfoundland, and certainly the future of the railway is one of the items under consideration.