

Inquiries of the Ministry

hon. member asked the Prime Minister whether somebody else shares the views or optimism of the Prime Minister on a certain matter. I am not sure that a question asked in those terms is in order. Perhaps the Prime Minister could reply to the second part of the question, and then the hon. member could ask a supplementary.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, before coming to the second part of the question, I want to point out to the hon. member that if he looks at the answer I gave on this subject he will find that I said that the United States might be justified in asking for it and that we might be justified in not giving it. It would depend on what the conditions of the negotiations were. As to the second part of the question about the DISC program, I must say that that program is not related to the negotiations on the auto pact.

CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT—CONSULTATION
WITH ONTARIO GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY ON
REMOVAL OF SAFEGUARDS

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question on the first part of my previous question. May I ask the right hon. gentleman if the government has conferred with the automobile industry and the government of Ontario with regard to whether the actual outcome of the negotiations would in any way reduce the safeguards affecting the automobile industry.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has talked with the automobile industry in Canada at some length. As far as the Ontario government is concerned, there has been an exchange of correspondence between the two governments. I suggested that the government of Ontario might make their views known to us. There have already been meetings, and I am told that there will be a meeting between the ministers of Ontario and our government again next week.

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OIL

REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF NATIONAL POLICY IN VIEW OF
ACTION TAKEN BY VENEZUELA

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I wonder if the minister would indicate, on behalf of the government, that he will be prepared to make a statement to the House regarding the government's assessment of the action of the government of Venezuela in rapidly escalating taxes on oil for export to Canada. In light of the conclusions reached by the government, can he say whether the government will undertake a review of national oil policy, so as to assure a greater share of the Canadian market for Canadian oil?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to assure the hon. member that when the appropriate time comes for a statement to the House, it will be made. Of course, we are attempting to take into consideration all factors in the

world in relation to oil and gas in the development of our own policy.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In assessing those conclusions, I wonder whether the minister would look at the effect on the Canadian economy, along with his colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, resulting from the major price increase.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe that that is a suggestion or a representation.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

COLD LAKE—FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS OF
DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS FOR CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATIONS

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development which arises from reports regarding certain Christmas amenities to members of the Cold Lake band in the Alberta region headquarters of his department. I would like to ask the minister whether members of his department are making preparations to help celebrate next Christmas on the top of the CNR tower or whether the minister has constructive steps in mind to bring about an end to the situation before that time?

• (2:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I feel that the Indians of Cold Lake should follow the example of other Indians in northern Alberta who sent their children back to school for their own welfare.

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[English]

FISHERIES

ATLANTIC SALMON—POSSIBLE AGREEMENT TO CEASE
FISHING—ACTION AGAINST COUNTRIES REFUSING TO
FOLLOW INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): My question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the statement by the Minister of the Environment on December 24 indicating that the high seas fishing of Atlantic salmon puts into grave question the survival of that fishery, will the minister advise what emergency steps Canada has taken to resolve this crisis?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have been in constant discussion with the countries that are involved in the Atlantic salmon fishery. We are continuing these discussions. We are striving, of course, to see an end to high seas fishing of salmon, but we do not have any fleet that could prevent other countries from salmon fishing if they so decide.