

New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member should know, the province of Quebec has been administering the federal Fisheries Act since the early 1920's.

Mr. Lundrigan: Would the minister answer the second and most important part of my question? Perhaps I ought to repeat my question. Let me get back to the important issue of 1972 and ask the minister whether, in view of the fact he has taken action against New Brunswick and against Newfoundland last week, he will give consideration to having that type of resource administered by these provinces inasmuch as Quebec has had control of that resource since the 1920's, as the minister ought to know?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the action to which the hon. member is referring is assistance in support of a fishery which is in difficult straits. I have not had any offer either from the maritime provinces or from Newfoundland with respect to helping finance this compensation program.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We shall have to move on. The hon. member has asked two supplementaries on this subject. Perhaps he might be recognized for a last supplementary and then we will go to the hon. member for Kent-Essex.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase my question because I am not communicating very well with the minister. Last week the minister made a unilateral decision imposing a ban on the fisheries of New Brunswick and Newfoundland without consultation with the provinces or even with his own officials. In view of the fact that this arrangement has been imposed on the province of Newfoundland, which could not have been imposed if it had not been part of Canada, is the minister considering having that resource at least under joint control with the provinces or administered in some way so that we will have some input into it as a provincial jurisdiction?

Mr. Davis: The simple answer, Mr. Speaker, is no, but the premise of the question is wrong. There has been consultation. I spoke with the ministers responsible for fisheries in the maritime provinces, with the Premier of Newfoundland, and with their senior officials beforehand.

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HEALTH

NUMBER OF NURSES TRAINED FOR FIELD SERVICE

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the great scarcity of medical doctors and the establishment of paramedical training courses, would the minister state the number of nurses who are now being trained for field service and indicate how soon they will be operative?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I think that question might be more appropriately placed on the order paper. I do not have the precise figure with me, but I will try to let the hon. member know.

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Speaker, I thought the minister would have it, from the speech he made the other night in Hamilton.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM WAR—GOVERNMENT ACTION IN LIGHT OF INCREASED HOSTILITIES—PLANS FOR EVACUATION OF CANADIANS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. What action is the government taking in response to the renewed crisis in Viet Nam and the appeal by the Secretary General of the United Nations to end the bombing of North Viet Nam and to reconvene the Geneva Conference so that this tragic war may finally be brought to an end?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government was not consulted by the Secretary General of the United Nations before he made his offer of good offices, but we have indicated that we would be prepared to co-operate with him in any way, either by the provision of observers or anything of this kind, if suitable terms can be worked out, or in any other way that might be useful. I think it may be partly as a result of the efforts made by the Secretary General that the Paris peace talks have been resumed, and I think the hon. member and myself are both gratified that that much progress has been made. There is no prospect whatsoever, I think, of any reassembly of the Geneva group.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I point out that the hon. member for Egmont put a question to the Prime Minister yesterday in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs related to action in regard to Canadian personnel who perhaps are in war zones in South Viet Nam. Has the Secretary of State for External Affairs any answer with respect to that matter?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, I have, Mr. Speaker. It is rather long and I do not know whether I would be permitted to make it now, because I think I should give some detail.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister might like to give this information on motions at some other time.