

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Pending legislation to outlaw phosphate detergents, will the minister assist concerned consumers to prevent water pollution by requiring detergent manufacturers to list the phosphate content on all detergent containers sold to the public?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I replied the other day that all efforts in this regard were co-ordinated by my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I think the question should properly be directed to him. There is at the moment no law at the federal level to make such labelling mandatory.

Mrs. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I must follow through with a supplementary. The reason I turned to the minister was that his colleague thought that women were too stupid to make use of such labelling and that they would go ahead and buy the high phosphate detergents anyway. Since the minister realizes that all women are not stupid in this matter, would he try them out—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, with certain ministers I would be afraid of the risk to their home life, but I am not a bit afraid in this case. Will the minister in his wisdom please give women the opportunity to be informed of the phosphate content of detergents and to behave like the responsible citizens which most of them are?

Mr. Speaker: As a result of the hon. member's representations, I am sure there will be a dialogue between the two ministers concerned.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I had intended to ask this question of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources but since he is not in the House today I should like to direct it to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Would the minister consult with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources on whether a statement can be made shortly with respect to whether or not the minister is going to take federal action to ban phosphates in detergents?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, after the previous question I think I had better consult first with my wife.

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

SHIPPING**DISABLED TANKER OFF SOUTH COAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND**

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I have a very urgent question related to the previous line of questioning to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister indicate whether he has received a report about another disabled tanker, this time off the south coast of Newfoundland? If so, can he give the House the assurance that the situation has been contained and that we will not suffer another tragedy of the kind we have just had?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, early this morning there was a report that a small tanker owned by the Irving interests had a fire in the engine room while in the vicinity of Placentia Bay on the south coast of Newfoundland. The last report we have is that the fire is out. The motor vessel *Petite Forte* has taken the tanker in tow and is proceeding to Argentina.

GRAIN**WHEAT—REDUCTION OF ACREAGE BY OTHER COUNTRIES—CANADIAN REDUCTION—PAYMENT TO FARMERS**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the genial member for Saskatoon-Humboldt in connection with the wheat situation, and in particular his visitation to Saskatchewan or western Canada yesterday. Will the minister say, first, whether any arrangements or agreements have been arrived at between other wheat growing exporters to reduce their respective cereal acreages this year? Second, will the minister say whether the government is now considering, in view of the interview he gave while in London, having some ten million acres taken out of cultivation over a period of two years, with the government paying some \$20 an acre to farmers who are in the position of having to reduce their acreage?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question is no. In answer to the second question may I say that the question contained a reference to certain figures which bear no relationship to anything that I did say. I should like to assure the right hon. member and other members that the government is very seriously looking at the problems of land