

Order Paper Questions

[English]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Richard Grisé (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 297 and 298.

[Text]

HUNTING OF BOWHEAD WHALES

Question No. 297—**Mr. Nickerson:**

1. To the knowledge of the Government, are Alaskan whalers killing bowhead whales travelling to their calving areas in Canadian territorial waters?
2. Has the Government received requests from Canadian Inuit for similar bowhead quotas and, if so, what has been the response?
3. During 1986, did the Government receive a request from the Eskimo Whaling Commission to conduct joint research with the United States into the number and habits of bowhead whales in the Beaufort Sea and, if so, what has been the response?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): 1. Alaskan Inupiat hunters take bowhead whales during migration to and from Canadian waters. However, Canadian territorial waters of the Beaufort Sea are a primary feeding area, not a primary calving area.

2. The Inuvialuit of the western Arctic and Inuit in the east have requested permits to take bowhead whales in Canadian waters. These requests have been refused on the grounds of conservation.

3. The Department has received informal requests from the Eskimo Whaling Commission to conduct joint research on bowhead whales with the U.S. We have assisted U.S. research in U.S. and Canadian waters through issuance of permits for tagging studies, aerial surveys and associated feeding studies, and provision of scientific advice. Large scale studies contracted by LGL Consultants of Toronto have been supported by funding from the U.S., DIAND, and bridge funding through DSS.

INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

Question No. 298—**Mr. Nickerson:**

Has Canada withdrawn from the International Whaling Commission and, if so (a) for what reasons (b) is any consideration being given to rejoining?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): (a) Canada withdrew from the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in 1982 following an intensive review of our whaling policy that concluded that we no longer had any direct interest in the whaling industry or in the activities of the IWC related to the whaling industry since the Canadian Government banned commercial whaling in 1972. The 1946 Whaling Convention, which Canada signed in 1946 as a whaling nation, was intended to "provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry."

(b) Although we are not considering rejoining the IWC, Canada continues close co-operation with the Commission's Scientific committee and support international co-operation for the conservation of the world's whale stocks.

[English]

Mr. Grisé: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Richard Grisé (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all Notices of Motions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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PRIVILEGE

HURTIG ENTERPRISES COURT ACTION

Mr. Speaker: I have a question of privilege from the Hon. Member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields).

Mr. Jack Shields (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have a question of privilege which I believe goes to the very heart of a Member's privilege in this House to ask questions in a free and unfettered way either by way of Question Period or by way of tabling of questions on the Order Paper.

If you will bear with me, Mr. Speaker, on October 14, 1987, I placed the following question on the Order Paper:

Question No. 207

Since April 1968, have (a) grants (b) loans (c) loan guarantees (d) contracts been provided by the Government to Hurtig Publishers of Edmonton or other Hurtig enterprises and if so, how many and, in each case (i) on what date (ii) in what amount (iii) for what purpose?

The answer was tabled in the House of Commons on January 27, 1988.

So that you have a full understanding of the implications of my breach of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I would like to briefly go over the answers with you.

Several Departments and agencies reported that government records for these fiscal years are not retained by the Public Archives in Canada in accordance with the General Records