

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is intelligent and should recognize that the Chair cannot allow the hon. member to say, "I will not use those words because I am not allowed to tell the truth." The hon. member knows that he cannot use that tactic.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps it would be in order for the Secretary of State for External Affairs to correct the record with regard to the statement he has just made, because the agreement between Canada and Norway was ratified today. I understand that there has been a statement, which is either on record or which has come from the minister's office, indicating that Canada has agreed to permit Norway to violate the territorial seas of Canada under an official agreement. Your Honour, if members are not permitted to refer to public facts, and if ministers such as this minister who does not have a spine at all—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** —or any backbone—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Will the hon. member please resume his seat.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member knows that he has no right to use this language. I again tell him that he must respect the rules of the House. I hesitate to use the word "rules". Let us say that he must respect the adopted and recognized customs and usages of this House. The hon. member can ask a question without going to these extremes of language and expression. I recognized him for the purpose of a supplementary question, because we had reached the end of the question period. He might ask that question and then we will call orders of the day.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Mr. Speaker, certain agreements have been arrived at between the government of Canada and various European countries, and all of them disadvantageously affect the affairs of the Atlantic region. The Secretary of State for External Affairs today indicated that there has not been any official agreement between Canada and Norway. I now ask the minister whether he will be prepared to table the diplomatic notes exchanged between Canada and Norway, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, the United Kingdom, France and Italy, to indicate the extent of the negotiations taking place with these various countries. Further, would he be prepared, Sir, in all sincerity, to discuss this matter with the premiers of the Atlantic provinces before agreements are formalized, in view of the very disadvantageous effects they may have on the Atlantic provinces?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I have tabled the exchanges with Norway. I said at that time that we had not yet ratified, and I do not think we have yet.

**An hon. Member:** The minister does not think!

**Mr. Sharp:** Perhaps the hon. gentleman knows better than I do, but I do not think the matter of a fishing agreement came before cabinet. As to the agreement with Denmark, it has been negotiated and signed *ad referendum* by officials. It will be coming before cabinet in Janu-

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

ary. The agreements with other countries are under discussion. We will be quite prepared to defend them against the charges of the hon. member, and I think my backbone is at least as stiff as his.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Orders of the day.

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**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Baldwin:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. As the House is now existing on a day to day basis, possibly the government House leader will indicate if the order of business which he announced last night will continue for this week and next week.

**Mr. Benson:** And the week after.

**Mr. MacEachen:** It will be the next order of business, Mr. Speaker. I am not saying the day or the week.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I believe the hon. member for St. Paul's is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Wahn:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. With unanimous consent, could we revert to presenting reports in order to present a report from the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence?

**Mr. Speaker:** This requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is unanimous consent.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS****EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE**

Fifth report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence—Mr. Wahn.

[*Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

• (3:30 p.m.)

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS****CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT ACT, 1971**

The House resumed, from Tuesday, December 21, consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen (for the Minister of Finance) that Bill C-261, to amend the Customs Tariff, be read the second time and referred to the committee of the whole.

**Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, while an examination of this bill would seem to indicate that the