

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, it was an extreme provocation, Your Honour must admit. According to the announcement made by the Premier of Newfoundland, as found in the current issue of *Maclean's* magazine, \$14 million of the \$20 million designated for Newfoundland under the special areas program is to be spent in the riding of the Minister of Transport.

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

**Mr. McGrath:** I want to get an assurance from the minister, Mr. Speaker, that moneys spent under this program will not be spent under the old barrel system of political patronage.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sorry but the question, even as rephrased, cannot be put. I am sure the hon. member realizes that.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The minister wishes to rise on a point of order.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I only want to tell the hon. member that 75 per cent of the special areas are represented by Progressive Conservative members.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is not a point of order. The hon. member for York South.

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

**Mr. Peters:** Does that mean they are not considered?

**Mr. Speaker:** May we have order? Will the hon. member kindly resume his seat. I have ruled there is no point of order. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for York South. The Leader of the Opposition is seeking the floor. He will be recognized after the hon. member's question has been asked.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LAOS AND CAMBODIA—REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES RESPECTING DEVELOPMENTS**

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** If I may change the subject, Mr. Speaker, I will direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the very dangerous

developments in Laos and Cambodia, is the government considering making representations to the United States government to avoid making Laos and Cambodia into another Viet Nam?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate under these circumstances that Canada should support any international efforts in this direction. This we are prepared to do.

**Mr. Lewis:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the government asked its representative in the area on the International Control Commission, who I understand would now be our person at Saigon, to keep careful watch over developments and to advise the government as to steps that may be taken to avoid a further escalation of the war in Indo-China?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, it is exactly in this kind of endeavour that we have been frustrated. If we had been allowed to operate as the International Control Commission was intended, it would have been possible to report violation of the ceasefire long since. We have been prevented largely because we cannot get the co-operation of the other members of the commission and partly because we have not been allowed access into the areas controlled by the Pathet Lao, for example.

**CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY**

**ARCTIC WATERS—RECOGNITION BY UNITED STATES**

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** My question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the recent United States announcement that 60 per cent of the coastguard budget will be used to build a fleet of icebreakers, has the minister been able to ascertain from the United States government whether this means they do not recognize our sovereignty over Arctic waters?

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

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

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Baldwin:** May I be permitted, Mr. Speaker, to ask the President of the Privy Council what interesting propositions he has to place before the House between tomorrow and April 6, both inclusive?