

of the British North America Act, or whether it arises merely because of the choice of phraseology in section 33(3) which, as the minister has indicated, appears to give very broad powers to federal fisheries officers without placing upon them the responsibility of proving the likelihood of damage to fish habitat?

Mr. LeBlanc: Madam Speaker, the presence of the Minister of Justice in his seat very close to me at the moment was about to allow me to have a word with him concerning this question. I have asked the legal officers of my department about it but, of course, I will want to hear the views of the Minister of Justice and have his co-operation also in his other role as minister responsible for federal-provincial relations.

I do not have the advantage enjoyed by the hon. member, that of having a nicely-written question before him, but I can tell him that my interest in this matter is no less than his.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GARRISON RIVER DIVERSION PROJECT—MONITORING OF CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In January of this year I received assurances from officials of Environment Canada in Regina that our consular officials would be on site to monitor engineering studies and land acquisitions in the New Rockford section of Garrison. Has the hon. gentleman been assured by his consular officials that there is no Garrison diversion construction under way which will affect Canadian waters?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I have not yet received such an assurance from my officials, but I can tell the House that further to our discussion of this matter in the House yesterday, our ambassador in Washington sent a letter to the subcommittee dealing with the appropriations rider and enclosed a copy of our tone to the United States government.

Mr. McKenzie: The minister said he has received no assurance from his officials. Can he tell the House whether there are any of our consular officials down in North Dakota now, monitoring construction work? I should also like to point out that Governor Link, of North Dakota, a Garrison supporter and friend of President Carter, has been calling for more funding for the project. Would the minister comment on the likelihood that the U.S. elections are coming into play on the Garrison issue?

Mr. MacGuigan: I would not want to comment on the U.S. elections, but obviously that is a factor. I will have to get the information the hon. member asks for and report to him.

Oral Questions

ILLEGAL BOARDING OF "RAINBOW WARRIOR" AND ARREST OF CANADIANS

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of press reports of the apprehension of Greenpeace anti-whaling vessel *Rainbow Warrior* in international waters yesterday and the holding at gunpoint and interrogation of a CBC cameraman and reporter, I should like to ask the minister whether he has yet received official reports of this incident and whether he has protested the illegal boarding of the vessel and the arrest of Canadian citizens.

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I can confirm that the report is true. According to the information we have received, the Greenpeace ship has been taken to the Spanish harbour of El Farol. We are endeavouring to get further information. It is too soon to make a protest, but if a protest is appropriate we will make it in due course.

Mr. Rose: Since this latest incident involving a Greenpeace vessel amounts to piracy on the high seas and is reminiscent of Captain David McTaggart's experience during the French nuclear tests when his vessel, *Greenpeace II*, was boarded by the French navy in the South Pacific about ten years ago, and bearing in mind the length of time it took Canada to finally espouse his cause, as was done belatedly, will the minister on this occasion, if the facts warrant it, protest immediately in the strongest terms to the government of Spain about this very grave matter?

Mr. Nielsen: Olé!

Mr. MacGuigan: I can assure the hon. member we shall certainly do what the facts warrant. It is not yet clear to us whether the seizure was made on the high seas; it may well have been made in Spanish territorial waters.

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[Translation]

ENERGY

NEGOTIATIONS ON REDUCTION OF CRUDE OIL IMPORTS

Mr. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Last year, in Tokyo, Canada committed itself to take all necessary steps to limit its oil import level to 150,000 barrels a day. Next week, in Venice, will the Prime Minister be able to announce that Canada has met its commitment?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Madam Speaker, I can assure the hon. member for Shefford and the House that Canada has fulfilled its commitment in 1979 and that, on the basis of currently available figures, we expect to be able to adhere to it again in 1980.