Inquiries of the Ministry

POLLUTION

PHOSPATE CONTENT OF DETERGENTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. In light of the commitment given by the minister last October that the phosphate content in household detergents would be reduced to not more than 5 per cent by the end of 1972, will the minister say, in view of recent press reports, whether this commitment still stands?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

TRADE

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immi-

gration): There has been no new program, Mr. Speaker,

other of course than in the Department of Manpower and

Immigration. Efforts have been made to make the present plans more beneficial. One example is that there will

probably be three times as many students travelling and

working in Europe as a result of manpower initiatives

than at this time last year. In addition, many of the young

people will be working on local initiatives programs that

have been extended to the extent of \$30 million.

INCREASE IN IMPORTS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT ACTION TO COUNTERACT TREND

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As imports into Canada have increased at three times the rate of exports during the first four months of this year, thereby showing that countries selling in Canada did so far more aggressively than Canadians selling abroad, would the minister take the first opportunity on motions to outline—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that this kind of question is not in order. He is making an argument. That is not a question and it is difficult for the Chair to allow the hon. member to proceed.

Mr. Hees: Would the minister take the first opportunity on motions to outline to the House what steps his department is taking in the immediate future to counteract this trend?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry. Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, most people who pay attention to these matters have already understood the situation which simply is that the economies of the industrialized countries of the world are not growing very rapidly and in some cases are declining. This makes Canadian exports, particularly of industrial materials, more difficult—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister should not make a statement now.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, as the drop in Canadian exports has been largely in manufactured goods, those that produce jobs, and as these can be sold abroad actively, as another government once proved, would the minister take the first opportunity on motions to outline what steps he intends to take? Let him just say yes or no.

Mr. Pepin: I do not accept the postulate and that is why I cannot agree with the conclusion.

FISHERIES

POSSIBLE REORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENT

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, does the Minister of Fisheries intend to carry out any reorganization of his department in order to arrest what appears to be a downgrading of the fisheries service within the department, especially in the light of the recommendation made to the minister by the Fisheries Council of Canada?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, since there is no downgrading of the fisheries service, I do not think any reorganization would be warranted.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

INQUIRY AS TO TIME FOR DISCUSSION OF BILL C-174

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the President of the Privy Council. Would the House leader make government time available later this week for passage through the House of Public Bill C-174 in order to assure reasonable competition in the coming election?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, government time this week is very precious, and I am afraid I cannot accede to the hon. member's representation.

Mr. Hellyer: In view of the pressure on government time this week, would the House leader give his undertaking for next week?

Mr. MacEachen: I would be glad to consider that further representation for later in the session.