

Mr. Sharp: The Minister of Fisheries has brought this matter before cabinet, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): In view of the fact that redfish and flounder are becoming extinct, while stocks of cod are seriously declining, has the Minister of Fisheries asked the ICNAF countries to close certain areas along the lines of the action taken to preserve haddock stocks?

Mr. Davis: The brief answer, Mr. Speaker, is yes. We are very concerned about fish stocks off our east coast.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Would the minister give consideration to extending the headlands on the east coast all the way out to Sable Island, bearing in mind his action on the west coast?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggested there might be two or three supplementaries. We shall extend that number to four and recognize the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate.

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister of Fisheries holding any discussions with the Secretary of State for External Affairs with respect to the possibility of convening a fisheries conference led and headed by Canada and attended by representatives of the great fishing nations of the world? If so, does he have the backing of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, a person who, I understand, has been dead against any move in this direction?

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NATIONAL PARKS

SUPREME COURT RULING ON PERPETUAL LEASES— POSITION OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. Allen B. Sulatycky (Rocky Mountain): Can the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development advise us whether he has now reached a decision to abide by the ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada with regard to perpetual leasing in national parks?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, this matter is now under consideration by the cabinet and I hope to be able to report to the House in the very near future.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

BANKS ISLAND—TABLING OF OIL EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table, in both official languages, copies of the agreement between the government and companies engaged in oil exploration on Banks Island in the Northwest Territories, as requested on October 13 last by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett).

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. minister leave to table the documents to which he has referred?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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[Translation]

HEALTH AND WELFARE

ACTION TO REDUCE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL AND DENTAL COSTS

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Yesterday the Department of National Health and Welfare published a report which says that the cost of hospital, medical and dental care has almost quadrupled in Canada between 1957 and 1969. Here is my question: Is the department now considering measures for the 1970-1980 decade in order to determine whether the costs will quadruple again? What does the government intend to do in that regard?

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest to the hon. member that his question is much too wide in scope. He will undoubtedly agree that normally the minister should answer his question by making a statement on motions.

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[English]

CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

PROVISION OF WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BUSI- NESS BUREAUX, CONSUMER AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENT

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. What mechanism does the hon. gentleman propose to establish to provide a working relationship between the Association of Canadian Better Business Bureaux, provincial consumer agencies and his department? Will he undertake to make a statement in the House on this subject?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): That is a very broad question, Mr. Speaker. With regard to provincial agencies and departments, my officials, particularly regional officers, are instructed to meet with them from time to time for the purpose of liaison. This liaison is very close—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry to have to interrupt the minister but it is my understanding or interpretation that the hon. member asked whether a statement would be made. I do not think such a statement should be made now.

Mr. McGrath: Perhaps I might ask a supplementary in a related field. Has the misleading advertising branch of the minister's department established guidelines—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member will appreciate that the question as asked is in terms which cannot be accepted by the Chair from a procedural standpoint.