

Inquiries of the Ministry

shores of Nova Scotia, the minister would approach his colleagues and ascertain whether there is any possibility of easing the net fishing regulations so as to offset the very extensive damage to the lobster fishery in those two areas.

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member understands that we also have the responsibility of protecting the salmon fishery, which is sometimes affected by the use of certain types of net for fishing cod. In this connection I am aware of the situation and have asked officials of my department to report immediately, and if we could ensure that the salmon fishery would not be affected we would be prepared to ease the present regulations.

[Translation]

HOUSING**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DIRECT
LOANS TO BUILDERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour concerning the announcement he made on January 30, 1967, when he said that loans were to be granted to contractors for the building of 20,000 houses.

In view of the strong demand under this program, would the minister tell us whether he would agree to raise the quota announced on January 30 last?

[English]

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, when it was announced earlier this year that the government would direct C.M.H.C. to make 20,000 direct loans to builders without pre-sale guarantees, it was explained that this was intended to get a spring house building program under way with a minimum of delay. It was also intimated at the time that consideration might be given to increasing the number of direct loans available without pre-sale guarantees later in the year. Yesterday I indicated I would be making a statement in this house within the next day or two. In the meantime I can only tell the hon. member that the chances of increasing the number of direct loans at this time are not great. I am happy to say that such action may not be necessary for the present at least.

[Translation]

Mr. Laprise: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. ForreSTALL.]

On April 20 last, the minister stated that the program he had announced on January 30 would not in any way reduce direct loans.

Could the minister tell us why the corporation refused recently four loans in the town of Amos?

Mr. Speaker: That is an argument. The question is not in order at this time.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**GREECE—REPRESENTATIONS AS TO RESTORA-
TION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Has he had an opportunity yet to investigate my question of yesterday regarding the Greek situation, and Canada's annual grant to the Greek army through the NATO defence assistance program?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have asked for the facts in respect of this matter. I have not received them yet, but I hope to be able to answer the question tomorrow or the next day.

[Translation]

**FORMATION OF ASSOCIATION OF FRENCH
SPEAKING PARLIAMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns the creation of an international association of French-speaking parliaments.

Has the central government invited the Quebec government to send representatives?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think that in such a matter, and in order to achieve what we have in mind, we must have the co-operation of all sections of the French-speaking world, of sovereign countries and sections of sovereign countries.

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Precisely to get delegates from all the French-speaking sections of the world, could the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs suggest to the heads of that international association of parliamentarians coming from French-speaking countries that Quebec should be authorized to send representatives of the Quebec parliament?