

Oral Questions

shark fishing from February 1 to approximately the end of June. Will this ruling apply to all ships of other nations fishing these banks and what type of compensation from the federal government will be made available to fishermen on the south shore of Nova Scotia to cover their economic losses due to lost fishing opportunities during this period?

• (1530)

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): The negotiations at the last ICNAF meeting were to the end that this area should be closed to all nations during the period mentioned, the four months of February, March, April and May. As to the matter of compensation, I should like to take that question under advisement.

PRESENCE OF PORTUGUESE AND FRENCH DRAGGERS IN ST. GEORGE'S BAY—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): The minister has told us he has heard representations concerning the presence of Portuguese and/or French draggers in the St. George's Bay area of western Newfoundland. What action has been taken by his department with regard to the entry of these vessels within the 12-mile limit?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): I have not been apprised of this situation. I will look into it and report to the hon. member.

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ENERGY

SELLING PRICE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SHARE OF OIL FROM SYNCRUDE—MEASURES TO STIMULATE EXPLORATION FOR CONVENTIONAL OIL

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It arises from the fact that he mentioned consumers when he was referring to the oil sands. Now that the government is participating in the development of expensive oil for Canadian consumers and since it has been indicated that the federal government's 15 per cent share of the crude oil could be taken in kind, would the Prime Minister inform us whether this oil might be sold to Canadians at a price lower than the world price? At the same time, would he tell the House what plans the government has to stimulate meaningful activity in the search for much cheaper conventional oil bearing in mind the disincentives contained in the budget and the fact that exploration is falling off?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Well, Mr. Speaker, the first part of the question deals with the hypothetical price of oil in Canada and oil production in years to come. I cannot answer that. As the hon. member knows, the price in Canada has been set by agreement among all governments until July 1 next. A conference is scheduled for April at which we shall be discussing the price for the next period. I do not know at this time how long that period will be nor what the price will be; it will

[Mr. Crouse.]

be a matter of negotiation and understanding, as was the last agreement.

Mr. Stanfield: That was a great understanding.

Mr. Trudeau: As to the second part of the question, I can only repeat the government's policy as stated by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources: we are, of course, very anxious that exploration for frontier oil and oil from conventional sources should proceed, and believe that the budgetary measures, combined with the more recent stances of the producing provinces, have made this possible.

Mr. Bawden: The Prime Minister has referred to the importance of frontier oil. Does he realize that most of the conventional reserves do lie under federal land? Does he realize that it is almost five years since any regulations have been issued? Would it not be a good idea for the government to put forward regulations which would encourage people to work on the land, to work on the tar sands, rather than wait for people to come to it with various isolated proposals?

Mr. Trudeau: This is a representation which I note with great interest.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE BY UNITED STATES CIA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since last Friday, when I raised the matter, has the hon. gentleman determined whether the United States Central Intelligence Agency intends to go ahead with its plan for a secret study of transportation technology? If so, has a contract already been awarded, and, if so, to whom? Has the minister checked to determine whether similar acts of industrial espionage have been conducted by the United States government affecting Canadian industries in fields other than transportation?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Whatever description might be given of this type of research, it is directed entirely to publicly available information.

Mr. Beatty: May I specifically ask the minister whether he has read the contract solicitation sent out by Mr. John C. Dougherty of the CIA on November 26? If so, how does he reconcile the statement he has just made with the statement in the letter—

The work contemplated includes utilization of classified information at the top secret compartmented information level. In this connection contractor employees selected for this effort would require appropriate agency access approvals prior to exposure to classified information at those levels.

Mr. MacEachen: I can only conclude that we must be talking about an entirely different transportation research technology. I have not seen the letter to which