

own minds as to what is in the best of interests of Canada and we should not allow any other country to determine our policy.

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• (3:00 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

POLICY RESPECTING PUBLICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL CABINET DOCUMENTS—POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, I am beginning to wonder to which question my supplementary is supplementary. It arises out of the questions asked by my leader and other members of the House with regard to the news conference outside the House involving the Acting Prime Minister. Was the Acting Prime Minister expressing government policy outside the House yesterday when he is reported to have said the following with regard to the publication of confidential privy council documents, as found in a by-line story by Arthur Blakeney in the *Montreal Gazette* today:

This is a very, very serious matter. Moreover, not only do I think that it is very serious, but I don't really think anyone who gets access to government documents has a right to publish them. I don't think so.

Does this accurately reflect government policy, even though the security of the state is not at issue, and does the publication of fact on Tuesday make fiction out of Monday?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I stand by the statement I made.

An hon. Member: Which one?

Mr. Nowlan: In view of that answer, Mr. Speaker, I have to ask the Minister of Justice a supplementary. I hope the Acting Prime Minister understood his own statement and read it well. In view of the answer of the Acting Prime Minister, is the Minister of Justice preparing legislation to prohibit the publication of confidential privy council documents?

An hon. Member: Come on.

Mr. Nowlan: After all, he implemented the War Measures Act.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nowlan: If so, have his law officers advised him that such legislation would contravene the Bill of Rights?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Comox-Alberni.

Mr. Nowlan: In view of the fact the Minister of Justice did not hear the question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order? The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Comox-Alberni. I did not see any minister rise to reply to the hon. member's supplementary.

Mr. Nowlan: There is a problem with the sound system today, let alone the many problems across the way. To be

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fair to the Minister of Justice, I will repeat my question. I think this is a legitimate question. In view of the answer of the Acting Prime Minister and in view of the history of this Parliament, is the minister preparing legislation to prohibit the publication of confidential Privy Council documents and, if so, has he had any advice from his law officers that the Bill of Rights may be involved?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): No, Sir.

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FISHERIES

CANADIAN POSITION ON PROHIBITION OF FISHING FOR ANADROMOUS SPECIES ON HIGH SEAS

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, the Acting Prime Minister will be relieved to know that I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. Bell: He will still mess it up.

Mr. Barnett: In connection with the upcoming law of the sea conference, has the government of Canada stated a position that all high-seas fishing for anadromous species of fish beyond the 12-mile limit should be stopped and, if so, to whom has this statement of the government's position been made? Also, is it possible for the Secretary of State for External Affairs to table this statement of government policy in the House?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think this is the general policy of the Canadian government. I think the hon. member expressed it reasonably well. As to whether we have yet had an opportunity to make such a statement before a conference, I would have to determine. I do not think there has yet been an opportunity for making that public declaration.

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COMPETITION BILL

POSSIBLE AMENDMENT IN LINE WITH REPORT TO CABINET BY MINISTER OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Has the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs reported to the cabinet with regard to the new Competition Act, as required by the cabinet memorandum of July 29? If so, does the government intend to amend the Competition Act within the terms of the request contained in that memorandum?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member should ask the minister when he is in the House tomorrow.

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am asking the Acting Prime Minister whether a report has been made to the cabinet.