

Inquiries of the Ministry

been possible because of the lack of agreement between the parties.

Mr. Diefenbaker: May I ask the minister, in order to reassure the people of Jewish origin in Canada, whether consideration is being given to moving the Canadian embassy now located at Tel Aviv to the city of Jerusalem?

Mr. Sharp: No, we have no present intention to move the embassy to Jerusalem. As the right hon. member knows about as well as anyone in this country, he did not do so when he was Prime Minister and the same circumstances still prevail, namely, that Jerusalem is still pretty much a disputed area.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Did the minister not say at that time that we should take that course of action?

Mr. Sharp: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I was not a member of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the right hon. gentleman rising on a question of privilege?

Mr. Diefenbaker: The statement was made outside the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

POLLUTION**GULF OF GEORGIA—RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISSUING OIL DRILLING PERMITS**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister concerning water pollution. Has his attention been drawn to the statement by the government of British Columbia and the minister concerned that the government of British Columbia and not the federal government will make the decision whether oil drilling will be permitted in the Gulf of Georgia? This is an important matter to many British Columbians.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my attention had not been drawn to this until a few moments ago when the hon. member was good enough to send me a note stating that he intended to ask the question. I believe this matter was dealt with at an earlier stage by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources but I shall check to see whether his attention has been drawn to this.

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources on this topic. In view

[Mr. Sharp.]

of the statement to which my colleague from Surrey referred, would the minister make a statement in the House on motions to clarify the position because I feel the minister has not clarified the position in the House?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I do not think a statement on motions would be of great advantage. The area of Georgia Strait comes inside the resource administration lines that the Prime Minister brought before the House a little less than a year ago in respect of offshore resources. In the event that the provinces agree to that distribution of administrative responsibility, then it could come within the provincial ambit of administrative authority, but to date the provinces have not agreed—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, if I understand the minister's reply correctly, is he now stating that the offer to the province last year in respect of the Gulf of Georgia is still open to the province to accept?

Mr. Greene: This matter is still under discussion with the province.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's previous statement in the House that both he and the Minister of Fisheries would have to grant permits before there could be drilling in Georgia Strait, may I ask the minister whether he will now make clear that he still has the power to make the final decision in respect of granting such permits and that they will not be granted if there is any danger to the fishing industry?

Mr. Greene: That is correct. Until there is provincial agreement this area, being outside the low water mark, still comes under the jurisdiction of the federal authorities in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada on the reference to it. It is my view, even though it is a legal opinion to which I may not be entitled, that a permit would be needed from the federal authorities.

TRADE**CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST U.S. POSTPONEMENT OF CHEMICAL TARIFF CUTS**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of