

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## NUCLEAR TESTS PROPOSED BY FRANCE—CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS—PARTICIPATION IN POSSIBLE ACTION BEFORE INTERNATIONAL COURT

**Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question on another subject and direct it to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact the government of France is preparing further nuclear tests in the South Pacific, what steps is the government of Canada planning in opposition to these tests beyond belated support of the New Zealand resolution at the United Nations last October 21?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to disabuse the hon. member's mind. Canada was the first to protest about these tests in the Pacific, and we will continue with this policy. We have been leading in the world in trying to bring nuclear testing to an end, whether in the atmosphere or underground.

**Mr. Rose:** Does Canada plan to join Australia in bringing a case against France before the International Court of Justice on the ground of pollution of the high seas and the temporary interruption of peaceful passage in international waters, as was occasioned last time?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, we have not yet had any definite news as to the position Australia will take. However, I can assure the hon. member that we will be joining with other likeminded countries in whatever is the most effective way of stopping the tests in the Pacific.

**Mr. Rose:** Since Canada did not support a Canadian vessel harassed by France during the previous French test, does Canada plan to provide such support at this time? Also, has there been any reply from France so far relative to the damage caused to Captain David McTaggart's *Greenpeace III* last summer?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, on the final question, we have spoken to the French government on behalf of *Greenpeace III*. We understand that there may be a reply shortly but there has not yet been one. We do not plan to put any Canadian vessels into the area that may be affected by the forthcoming test.

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[Translation]

## INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

**Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Since the local initiatives program provides for an average weekly salary of \$100 and some agencies whose projects have been accepted pay only \$50 a week, could the hon. minister tell us whether there is an agreement with the department to favour certain people or whether the difference is just remitted to the electoral fund of his party?

## Oral Questions

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Kingston and The Islands.

**Miss MacDonald (Kingston and The Islands):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker—

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member knows that he can give notice of his intention of discussing a matter later, only if it is in order. If the hon. member gives notice, then the Chair determines whether the matter respects the rules of the House, that is, whether it is in order.

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[English]

## INDIAN AFFAIRS

## REQUEST THAT STANDING COMMITTEE BE ORGANIZED TO DEAL WITH NISHGA LAND CLAIM

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Privy Council. In view of the confusion and concern with regard to the land claims of the Nishga nation of Indian people, would the President of the Privy Council inform the House whether he is going to use his good offices to arrange immediately for the organization meeting of the standing committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development so that the committee can deal specifically with this issue?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the committee can move ahead with the organization meeting just as soon as it has some item of business that will allow it to deal with this matter. I am at present considering with the parliamentary secretary to the minister what the most effective way would be to bring this matter before the committee.

**Miss MacDonald (Kingston and The Islands):** Would the President of the Privy Council undertake to do this immediately and report to the House tomorrow?

## REQUEST THAT ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT BE REFERRED TO STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the President of the Privy Council. As a motion from the New Democratic Party was accepted today by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to examine the annual report of that department, will the minister cause the annual report of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to be referred to the committee so that it can start to get to work?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, that seems to be the most direct way of bringing this about, unless we wait a week or so for reference of the main estimates. However, either one will do it.