

Mr. Speaker: Order. I believe the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe wishes to rise on a point of order. I realize that he wants to ask a supplementary, and if that is his point of order I will return to him in a moment.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that the Minister of Fisheries did not answer my question. I asked him what the answer was to our plea and the minister replied that the matter was discussed. I know it was discussed. Could he answer my question?

Mr. Speaker: I think we are getting confused. We might allow the hon. member for the Yukon to ask a supplementary and then I will recognize the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether he is prepared to inform the House of the contents of the agreement that the government wished to obtain with the U.S.S.R. with respect to Arctic sovereignty? If so, would he do so on motions on another occasion when there is more time?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, before the Soviet delegation under Premier Kosygin leaves Canada a communiqué will be issued expressing the views of the two governments on the matters that have been discussed, and perhaps this might serve as the basis for further questions.

• (2:20 p.m.)

RESPONSE OF PREMIER KOSYGIN TO CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING FISH CONSERVATION MEASURES

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): May I pose my question to the Minister of Fisheries again and ask whether he would elaborate briefly on the discussions with the Soviet Premier on conservation of fish stocks? Is there anything definite to hope for?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, we endeavoured to describe the plight of the fishermen, particularly the Canadian inshore fishermen, and the Premier of the U.S.S.R. said that he would consider our representations carefully.

CRITICISM BY PREMIER KOSYGIN OF UNITED STATES ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. In light of the questions that have been put recently in reference to negotiations on the United States surtax and in light of the fact that the distinguished guest of this country criticized United States policy while visiting Canada, may I ask if that was done at the request of the Prime Minister—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Woolliams: —or did our distinguished guest do that on his own?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, although I think the question is frivolous I want to say

Inquiries of the Ministry

that Mr. Kosygin is quite well able to express his own views on anything.

Mr. Woolliams: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, if anybody is frivolous it is the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Skeena.

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MANPOWER

AVAILABILITY OF JOB VACANCY SURVEY DATA

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): To come back home again, Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. With respect to the job vacancy survey conducted by the minister's department which took four years, employed 106 persons and cost more than \$3 million, would the minister be prepared to explain why the data from that survey will not be available until the end of the year?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the work being done on the job vacancy survey is of a developmental nature and will be extremely important and valuable when the results are sufficiently firm to be the base for firm conclusions and planning. This is the whole point of it. The work is developmental; it is coming along very well and before long we will have regular reports as a result of it.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Inasmuch as the minister evaded the question completely I wonder if I could ask him whether there would be any connection between the job vacancy survey program and the incompetence with which it has been handled and the fact that his department's job placement program has declined more than 30 per cent in the last four years while his departmental staff has doubled and the cost has doubled?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that the question is argumentative and in the form of debate. It is hardly acceptable when put in those terms.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Could I rephrase the question and ask the hon. gentleman if he would be prepared, perhaps tomorrow because of the urgency of the matter, to take the opportunity on motions to explain the job placement program of his department and the fact that it has failed and that all he is doing is building a bureaucracy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH U.S.S.R.

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs a supplementary question.