

intends to take. Will it decide in favour of a unilateral reduction of Canadian armed forces or will it object thereto?

In addition, will Canada follow the example of the United States by maintaining its undertaking in favour of a strong Atlantic alliance?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is my hope and expectation to be in Brussels next week for the meeting of NATO powers. Perhaps my colleague the Minister of National Defence will be there, too. We have been one of the strongest advocates in NATO of mutual and balanced force reductions. We will be continuing to press for this, which involves not unilateral reductions but multilateral reductions.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

NOVA SCOTIA—REQUEST FOR DECISION ON AID TO FISH PLANTS AT MULGRAVE AND CANSO

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the critical economic conditions in eastern Nova Scotia caused in part by the continued closing of the Acadia fisheries plants at Mulgrave and Canso, and in view of the minister's recent visit to the area in connection with negotiations that have been going on between the minister's department, the province of Nova Scotia and the proposed operator, can the minister now inform the House when we may expect some decision on federal aid for this vital project?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, last week I met with the minister responsible for development in Nova Scotia, Mr. Fisher.

We are now reviewing the matter and I hope to make a decision within a week.

[English]

NEWFOUNDLAND—FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO FISH PLANT AT BURGEO

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which I direct to the Minister of Fisheries. What steps is the federal government taking to assist in the reopening of the fish plant at Burgeo, which is a very important fish plant on the south coast of Newfoundland in the constituency of the Minister of Transport?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, we are looking at the matter very carefully.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate.

Mr. McGrath: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate. Hon. members have probably noticed that practically every member to my left

Inquiries of the Ministry

is seeking the floor to ask a question. Hon. members will realize that they cannot all be recognized if there are too many supplementaries. For the moment the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate and will return to the hon. member for St. John's East in a moment.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT TREND PREDICTIONS ON UNEMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I have a brief question for the Acting Prime Minister. Can the hon. gentleman inform the House whether the government's trend predictions indicate that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate this winter will reach 8.2 per cent with approximately 10 per cent in the province of Quebec?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I saw a reference to this in the press as well, but certainly this is not any seasonally adjusted expectation.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, in view of that response and the response of the Minister of Finance, who I believe said "nonsense" when I asked my question, can the Acting Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance indicate whether they have made any trend predictions and, if so, have enough confidence in them to make them public?

Mr. Sharp: No, we have not been making our forecasts, which we make for internal purposes, public. We hope that they are fairly accurate but we have no intention of publishing them.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TABLING OF SEALING TREATY WITH NORWAY AND EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON FISHING PRACTICES

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I said a little earlier that I should like to take the opportunity of tabling some documents that had been requested. Might I have permission to do so now?

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I should like to table copies of an agreement between the government of Canada and the government of Norway on sealing and the conservation of seal stocks in the northwest Atlantic, dated July 15, 1971; and also an exchange of notes between the government of Canada and the government of Norway constituting an agreement with respect to Norwegian fishing practices off the Atlantic coast of Canada of the same date.

Mr. Lundrigan: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Lundrigan: In view of the fact that no statement was made on motions on the tabling of this document, which is an agreement between Canada and Norway that permits