

Inquiries of the Ministry

would say that the best interests of both these provinces as well as of Canada as a whole would be served by passing Bill C-197 quickly.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, is the minister's department or the government represented in the proceedings before the Supreme Court of Quebec for the purpose of advocating the unconstitutionality of the proceedings in Quebec, or is this matter too sensitive for the minister to become involved in it?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, the government and this department get involved in all things that are useful to the farmers of Canada. I will take notice of the question, which should properly have been referred to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Baldwin: You are pretty late in the day.

SHIPPING

NEED FOR ADDITIONAL COASTGUARD
VESSELS TO PROTECT CANADIAN
SOVEREIGNTY IN ARCTIC

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, in view of the warning issued last week by Captain T. C. Pullen, official Canadian observer aboard the *Manhattan*, that Canada is in danger of losing the Canadian Arctic to the United States unless we initiate a crash construction program of coastguard ships, can the Minister of Transport say what steps he is taking to improve the operational capability of our coastguard fleet? Is the department preparing to instal navigational aids in the Arctic, and is it planning to expand our ice reconnaissance capability?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that this is a far reaching question which normally should be replied to by way of a statement on motions.

[Translation]

EDUCATION

APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State.

Would he tell us when he intends to set up an advisory committee on culture?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, this committee is being set up and should hold its first meetings in the fall.

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Has the minister consulted with the provinces before creating that committee, since culture is a provincial matter, and will the members of that committee be selected jointly by the provinces and the federal government?

Mr. Pelletier: I do not acknowledge the validity of the hon. member's opinion, Mr. Speaker, but I must say that we have entered into negotiations with all provincial ministers involved in cultural affairs and the fact that the federal government intends to co-ordinate the initiatives of its agencies in this field has not as far as I know given rise to any objection from the provinces.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BOLIVIAN TURMOIL—PROTECTION OF
CANADIAN CITIZENS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Having in mind the reports of turmoil existing in Bolivia, can he indicate the situation there with regard to Canadian citizens?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): We are following developments in Bolivia very closely. If it appears to us that special precautions have to be taken for the safety of Canadians, we are prepared to do so.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT
ON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. It arises out of the fact that evidently nobody knows what happens in Newfoundland in regard to matters involving the federal government. Would the minister make a statement on motions outlining the plans of his department arising out of the cabinet's acceptance of the Newfoundland government's white paper proposal to develop two national parks, an all-weather paved highway between Deer Lake and St. Anthony, air strips in Newfoundland and