

Even in spite of the tremendous exploitation of the fishery that has taken place, it is not too late for the Canadian government to ensure that end marine resources provide one of the major economic thrusts of this country. The fishery could be a top priority and the government should give it almost special status in terms of setting priorities for Canada. It should be given special status when it comes to negotiating a good deal with other countries for the Canadian fishery and conservation and management measures. Certainly, this is what I should like the Canadian government to do. It is what all Canadians would like, whether from British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick or the Gaspé. Incidentally, I am waiting for my hon. friend from Gaspé, for whom I have a tremendous amount of respect, to make his position on this issue clear. We want the fishery given as much status as possible.

The amendment moved by my colleague from St. John's East seeks to give the fishery some of the status it deserves. I submit that eliminating the office of minister of fisheries is a retrograde step that will have a debilitating effect on our attitude to the fishery, which in turn will result in the downgrading of the role of the fishery in Canada.

I hope that when I continue my remarks this evening the government will see fit to accept this very simple amendment that has been moved with the best interests of the fishing industry at heart, and with that, Mr. Chairman, I call it five o'clock.

The Chairman: Order. It being five o'clock it is my duty to rise, report progress, and request leave to sit again later this day.

Progress reported.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Rowland)—Information Canada—representations from publishers of original Canadian books respecting assistance; the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow)—Labour Conditions—Unemployment—immediate amendment of Unemployment Insurance Act in view of increase in fund—increase in federal share of welfare costs; the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg)—Agriculture—Consolidation of farms—preservation of family farms.

It being five o'clock the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's Order Paper, namely public bills.

Bills of Exchange Act and the Interest Act PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

BILLS OF EXCHANGE ACT AND THE INTEREST ACT AMENDMENT RESPECTING OFF-STORE INSTALMENT SALES

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North) moved that Bill C-22, to amend the Bills of Exchange Act and the Interest Act (off-store instalment sales) be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

● (5:00 p.m.)

He said: Mr. Speaker, the bill which I sponsor today involves a principle which was the subject of a bill enacted in 1962 by the Conservative government in the United Kingdom. That bill was entitled "An Act to amend the law relating to hire-purchase and sales on credit of goods; and for purposes connected therewith". The purpose of this bill is to protect the Canadian consumer when he or she is approached in his or her home and is pressured into signing a contract for goods, services, labour or materials that are to be paid for by the consumer in future instalments. The principle of the bill is to afford the consumer a period for sober second thought.

I am sure there is not a Member of Parliament here who has not heard, either directly from one of his constituents or read in a newspaper publication, of the case of a high pressure salesman calling at the door, meeting a housewife or an individual living at the house who is retired or is on pension, and giving a high pressure sales talk resulting in the signing of a contract which obligates the person to purchase something like aluminum siding for his house, aluminum windows, the encyclopaedia Britannica or some other type of magazine.

The salesman very often creates the impression that this so-called service or product will be provided to the person to whom the sales pitch is being made at a very small cost; if not at a small total cost, at a small weekly or monthly cost. Very often people are charged substantially more than they might have paid if they had purchased the articles or the service in the regular way from a reputable place of business. Often they are lead to believe they will be given or provided with magazines, encyclopaedia or other items at little or no cost. Subsequently, they find to their horror that they have really obligated themselves to a contract for purchase. They often find they have agreed to purchase a large amount of aluminum siding for their house, which could amount to \$1,000 or \$2,000, or aluminum windows, which could run into hundreds of dollars, or a set of encyclopaedia which could cost \$100 or \$200, or even more. I might add that most people find little or no use for these books, magazines and other articles they become obligated to purchase at a cost of between \$20 and \$50 in interest on the contract.

Since I raised this matter first before the Joint Committee of the House of Commons and the Senate, which was looking into consumer credit, a number of individuals have dealt with the matter, and several provinces