

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

reached I cannot honour the promise I made, but the promise still holds. On the subject itself, we are very careful in attempting to maintain the right balance. As my hon. friend does not know what the first offer was, he cannot say that we shifted from the first offer. I am surprised to hear the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings being so tough, as his House leader said the other day that we have to be very careful—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are getting into debate at this point.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Since the minister is not prepared to say what was in the proposal, and this repeats the point made by the Prime Minister yesterday, would he at least tell us what is not in the government's bargaining position? Specifically, I ask the minister to assure the House now, once and for all, that the government has no intention of giving up temporarily or permanently in any form the production safeguards in the Canada-U.S. automotive agreement?

**Mr. Pepin:** No, Mr. Speaker, this is still being negotiated. My son, Nicholas, who is six years of age, and even the Prime Minister's son Justin, who is just a few weeks old, know that in negotiations like these you do not give your hand away.

**An hon. Member:** You are prepared to sell us out.

\* \* \*

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS ALLEGATION OF COMMISSION BIAS AGAINST CLAIMANTS—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY**

**Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent):** May I direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Does the government plan to make a public statement in reply to the very serious charges by the Canadian Labour Congress to the effect that the Unemployment Insurance Commission is overzealous and not neutral but, indeed, anti-claimant in enforcing the regulations, thus further delaying claims?

**Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** I want to assure the hon. member that useful conversations have been held with officials of the Canadian Labour Congress over the past few days just as we welcome conversations and meetings with other groups in this country in regard to the fine work—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. McCutcheon:** I was afraid of something like that. I wonder if I might direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In light of the unprecedented delays in administration and now this accusation of bias, will the government consider an independent inquiry into the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

[Mr. Pepin.]

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Not having heard the accusation of bias, I would refer the hon. member to the answer of the parliamentary secretary. If the conversations were useful I am sure they established that there was no bias or that if there was we would look into it.

\* \* \*

**FISHERIES****POSSIBLE VARIATION IN LOBSTER SEASON, DISTRICT NO. 5, NOVA SCOTIA**

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the continuing dissatisfaction and the many representations made by fishermen in the area, will the minister make a public declaration as to his intentions in regard to varying the lobster season in district No. 5 in Nova Scotia. I thank the minister for his correspondence but I think it might be useful if he would say something publicly about the situation.

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries):** I am glad to report that the inshore lobster fishery has recorded an all-time record catch both in volume and value and that the offshore fishery which we have recently instituted is an overwhelming success.

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

**LICENSING REGULATIONS FOR SALMON FISHING**

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Can the Minister of Fisheries give some indication when we can expect the new 1972 salmon licensing regulations in view of the alarming response from the Newfoundland fishermen last year? If he cannot give an answer now, would he mind answering the letters which have been pouring into his office on this important question?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries):** The new regulations were announced last year and will again be enforced this year in the same form.

[Later:]

**Mr. Lundrigan:** My question is for the Minister of Fisheries. We are aware of the regulations announced last year. The question I am asking the minister is whether he will give consideration to amending last year's regulations in view of the unanimous response of the fishermen of the province of Newfoundland? If he is not prepared to do so, would he be prepared to pick up the legal tab for fishermen who plan to violate these regulations on the advice given by certain elected officials?

**Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, substantially those who have full-time, year-round jobs no longer can catch salmon commercially. This is the only exception that was announced last year. I do not think that the fishermen generally are against our new regulations.