

Oral Questions

[Translation]

FISHERIES

Mr. Yvan Bernier (Gaspé, BQ): Mr. Speaker, at the federal-provincial conference of fisheries ministers held in Victoria on November 1, the government of Quebec formally requested jurisdiction over fisheries management. You will recall that, in 1983, the Liberal government had unilaterally decided to centralize fisheries management in Ottawa.

Can the Minister of Fisheries tell us whether or not he intends to make changes to administrative jurisdictions with regard to Canadian fisheries? And, if so, does he intend to do so along the lines of what Quebec is asking for?

[English]

Hon. Brian Tobin (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for his question. Indeed, several governments in Canada in recent weeks and months have expressed an interest in greater responsibility in the area of the administration of the health of the fisheries.

Among those is the Government of Quebec, which made its position clear at a meeting of federal and provincial ministers in Victoria a few weeks ago. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador expressed an interest in fisheries management in a proposal it calls joint management. The Government of British Columbia expressed an interest in seeing licensing and allocation boards established in the province of British Columbia.

It is good to see that the new Government of Quebec, and on this I congratulate it sincerely, and I have congratulated the minister who is in tune with his fellow colleagues, understands the need to build efficiencies in this country given our fiscal restraint, to find ways to avoid duplication and overlap and to have better administration of fisheries policies by working together, all 10 provinces and the national government.

[Translation]

Mr. Yvan Bernier (Gaspé, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I thought I had put my question clearly, but I am not sure that the answer I got was clear.

Here is my question: Does the minister intend to reorganize fisheries management in Canada? Information was leaked to the *Globe and Mail* three weeks ago to the effect that cuts would be made. Quebec has come up with a proposal.

I would like to know if the minister is planning to make changes to fisheries management. If so, will these changes be in keeping with Quebec demands?

[English]

Hon. Brian Tobin (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I certainly intend working with my colleague, with others in the House interested in fisheries matters and with all of the provinces to respond very directly to reorganizing the fishery. The bottom line is that we look after the resource for conservation and for enforcement. That means sharing greater roles and responsibilities with all of the provinces, including the province of Quebec. I am quite open and willing to take a look at it.

The member is asking me whether or not the proposal of any one province is going to be accepted in its total form without amendment or without discussion. That is not the nature of federalism. Federalism is based on mutual respect, mutual interest, dialogue and discussion.

I look forward to continued good dialogue and discussion with all of the provinces, including Quebec.

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ALAN EAGLESON

Mr. Ian McClelland (Edmonton Southwest, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, in March of this year the House was informed that the RCMP was involved in an ongoing investigation into the activities of Hockey Canada and Mr. Alan Eagleson.

Since then a U.S. grand jury has brought down a 34 point indictment and the Law Society of Upper Canada a 41 point complaint against Mr. Eagleson.

The RCMP in this time has not even contacted the primary source of information to the FBI and the Law Society of Upper Canada, Mr. Russ Conway of Lawrence, Massachusetts.

• (1455)

My question is for the Solicitor General. Why has the RCMP not even interviewed Mr. Conway and why is the RCMP not pursuing this investigation with vigour and commitment?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is not customary for a Solicitor General to comment on ongoing investigations. However, I can confirm that the investigation continues. I am sure it will be carried out with the professionalism that we associate with the RCMP.

Mr. Ian McClelland (Edmonton Southwest, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the House has been hearing the same answer to that exact question from this Solicitor General and previous Solicitors General since 1992.

There is a concern that the minute U.S. authorities request extradition the RCMP will lay a charge of jaywalking or some