

Government House  
Ottawa

July 10, 1980

Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Brian Dickson, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the chamber today, the 10th day of July, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,  
Madam,  
Your obedient servant,  
Edmond Joly de Lotbinière  
Administrative Secretary  
to the Governor General

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[English]

#### POINT OF ORDER

MR. McGRATH—SALMON FISHERY—REPLY OF MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Madam Speaker, I have a point of order arising from a reply yesterday by my hon. friend, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. LeBlanc), to my colleague, the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain), in respect of the continuation of compensation payments to commercial salmon fishermen in the maritime provinces.

● (1510)

I know the minister would not want to deliberately mislead the House, and I know that his answer in this respect, in that it was misleading, was inadvertent. He did say that his predecessor terminated the compensation. He knows that when another year of compensation was granted by Treasury Board, that is for fiscal 1979, it was done on the understanding that that would be the final year in which compensation would be made, because fiscal 1979 was the seventh or eighth year of a program which was scheduled to last for only five years.

In fact, that was the reaction which I received initially from Treasury Board, and it was my understanding that I would not be able to get an extension beyond 1979 of the compensation program. However, I did agree to a modified continuation of the program. In that respect we were looking at ways and means of continuing payments to bona fide fishermen who were still active fishermen and terminating payments for those fishermen who were no longer active. We wanted to find a way to continue payments to those fishermen who were still active.

That is the case, and those are the facts. I am sure that the minister, if he searches his memory, will find that it is so.

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, I obviously would not want to mislead the House, especially in relation to something at which the hon. member would feel aggrieved. I will check my memory and I will check the record. I suspect that my memory came from a

#### Privilege—Mr. Domm

rather strong exchange which took place in the House when I was on the other side. In that exchange it was alleged that I had agreed to terminate compensation, instead of Treasury Board having decided that compensation should terminate. If I remember correctly, I made the point in that heated exchange that I did not agree with Treasury Board in this case and that I thought a program should be put in place either to retire licences which were held by fishermen who were not using them, or to arrange for a buy-back or some other means. I felt that the provinces should participate since they benefited from any reduction in the commercial salmon fishing effort on the east coast.

That being said, I take the hon. member's correction as a point well taken, and I apologize for anything which I said which would make it appear as though the hon. member were misleading the House. Obviously, that was not my intention.

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#### PRIVILEGE

MR. CORBETT—REFERENCE TO NEWFOUNDLAND BY HON. MEMBER FOR VANCOUVER EAST

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal):** Madam Speaker, as an Atlantic Canadian and a member from the maritime provinces, I rise on a point of privilege. The hon. member for Vancouver East (Mrs. Mitchell) in a question today to the minister of housing made reference to the province of Newfoundland and in the same context went on to make reference to the maritime provinces, which would indicate to the House and to Canada that the maritime provinces include the province of Newfoundland.

Newfoundland is a beloved part of Atlantic Canada. Besides that fact, although the party to my left, the NDP, make attempts to change everything else in our system, that should not give them the licence to attempt to change the geography of the country, simply because they have no members from that region. The fact is that Newfoundland is no more a part of the maritime provinces than is British Columbia, from which the hon. member springs, a member of the prairie provinces.

I would also add that, much to my amazement, the minister seemed to go along with this same sort of attitude and did not differentiate in his response.

[Translation]

**Madam Speaker:** I have a feeling the hon. member gave us details he was very pleased to give the House, but I fail to see any question of privilege. I have heard him, but I doubt that I should allow further discussion on the matter.