Oral Questions

are fishing efficiently, effectively and continuously it is estimated that the quotas are exceeded by as little as 40 per cent and as much as 200 per cent—would the Prime Minister consider, as part of his topic for discussion, the possibility of asking that there be a reporting system which would be irrefutable in respect of the amount of fish caught by foreign fleets off our coast? At present there is no confidence in the reporting system.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to hear the hon. member make that statement. If there were no confidence, we would not have taken the action we did with regard to the Russians. We obviously have some confidence. We sealed the ports.

An hon. Member: You acted too late.

Mr. Trudeau: You cannot have it both ways. On the one hand, one hon. member says the reporting system is not good and, on the other hand, another hon. member says we acted too late on the basis of a reporting system which is no good. We are attempting to make representations and we have been making them in a very forceful way by foreclosures. We will continue to do so.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCain: I am somewhat confused by the Prime Minister's answer to my last question. I will have to read it to see what he really said.

Since it has been felt that the foreign fleets are coming within Canadian waters recently, will the Prime Minister assure us that there will be a surveillance strength put in place to conduct inspection both of the location of the fishing and the amount of fish caught if the proper catch allocations cannot be negotiated in the usual amicable way?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the question begs an answer which I am not sure is correct. When the hon. member speaks about fishing in Canadian waters I do not know whether he is referring to the 12 mile limit, which defines Canadian waters now, or to the 200 mile limit, which is something we are trying to bring into international law.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

CHURCHILL RIVER DIVERSION—PROPOSED NEGOTIATION WITH MANITOBA AND LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION FOR CITIZENS

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. As negotiations have completely broken down between the federal government and the Manitoba government and the Northern Flood Committee with regard to the Churchill river diversion, and as the seven year delay in reaching an environmental and compensation decision will cost the Manitoba taxpayers untold millions of dollars in additional costs, what action will the minister now take? Will he resume negotiations or will the federal government continue with its plans to take Manitoba to court?

• (1430)

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the contention that the negotiations have completely broken down. I am looking forward to a response from the premier of Manitoba to the letter I gave him covering the two areas: the question of compensation, which was raised by the hon. member, and the extent of the flooding which is anticipated.

Mr. McKenzie: As the Manitoba government has provided no firm commitments in regard to compensation for the citizens of northern Manitoba, will the minister insist that the Manitoba government prepare such legislation immediately? Bill 10, which was introduced in 1969 by the previous Conservative government, could be used as an excellent set of guidelines with which to draft the legislation.

Mr. Buchanan: Mr. Speaker, this is a proposal I will be happy to pursue with the government of Manitoba.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED PUBLICIZING OF EXTENDED AUTOMOBILE WARRANTIES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, but since he is not here I will ask the acting minister, who happens to be the Postmaster General. In view of the evasions of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs with respect to questions I asked in this House on July 23 regarding the existence of extended warranties placed on certain models of automobiles by automobile companies and his obstinate refusal to make consumers aware of their rights, I wish to ask if the minister is now prepared to publicize through Box 99 all extended warranties which have existed, now exist or may be found to exist in the future.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Acting Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs asked me to apologize for his absence today due to illness in his family, and to inform the House that he will be back tomorrow, and at that time he will answer the question.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

DAIRYING—POSSIBILITY OF REMOVAL OF LEVY ON POWDERED MILK FOR EXPORT

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

The minister must have received innumerable letters of protest against the decision to increase the 45-cent export tax on milk powder. Could he say whether he took them seriously and intends to give a favourable answer to farm-