

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Mr. MacEachen: I understand that the House will order that we will have no further speeches and the vote on third reading as the first item of business tomorrow.

• (2220)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): If I may refer to the proposal of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), am I to understand that his proposal, if accepted, would become an order to the effect that this vote would be taken as the first order of business, without any debate?

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, because of our willingness to expedite at all times the business of the House, I agree with the proposal put forward by the President of the Privy Council.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): It is so ordered.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

FISHERIES—ATLANTIC SALMON—SUGGESTED BOYCOTT OF DANISH GOODS

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, on May 10, as reported at page 2143 of *Hansard*, I asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) if he would join the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) in endorsing a consumer boycott of Danish products entering Canada as a means of protesting the Danish position on fishing for salmon on the high seas. The Prime Minister replied that it is not government policy to promote such a boycott.

The story of the government's ban on the commercial salmon fishery and the reasons therefor have been repeated in this House on a number of occasions. The Minister of Fisheries has stated publicly that the action taken by the Canadian government is intended to embarrass the Danes. Mr. Speaker, how naïve can the Minister of Fisheries be? The reaction from Denmark was exactly what any level-headed person would have expected: they told our government and Canadians in no uncertain terms exactly where they could go and what they could do.

In his statement to the House on April 24 the Minister of Fisheries said that last year the catch of Atlantic salmon by Denmark alone was four times that of all our fishermen. I suggest that that is an understatement. According to the minister's own figures, the number of salmon taken by the Danes last year was 15 times the number taken by fishermen in the three New Brunswick rivers in which the ban has been applied. Why is the government penalizing Canadian fishermen and denying them the opportunity to augment their incomes when actually the Danes are the

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

worst offenders? The Danes are destroying the resource, not Canadian fishermen. It just does not make sense that we should try to ban salmon fishing for our fishermen and then make Canadian salmon available to the fishermen of Denmark.

Canada, Mr. Speaker, is trying to be the nice guy in international politics. But I say it is about time we showed some spunk.

Mr. Bell: Hear, hear!

Mr. Carter: We should be more concerned about protecting our rights and those of our fishermen that trying to maintain the image of Mr. Clean. I suggest that Canada should stop beating around the bush. Let us hit Denmark where it will hurt, in the \$30 million worth of exports that enter this country annually from Denmark. If this government had any guts it would do everything in its power to prevent the sale of any Danish product in this country. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that Canadians would be only too willing to join in such an effort; they would respond to that kind of leadership.

Tonight I should like to urge Canadians across this country to take a stand for their Atlantic salmon fishermen and refuse to buy anything that is imported from Denmark. Treat it as a deadly poison: don't buy it, don't eat it and don't have anything to do with it. Let us continue that policy for as long as Denmark thumbs its nose at Canada.

Unless and until our government and our people are prepared to do that, until we are prepared to stand up and let the Danish government and Danish fishing interests know where we stand, I do not think we have any right to ask our fishermen to go along with stupid regulations which are only having the effect of protecting our salmon resource for the Danes.

Mr. Barnett J. Danson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker—

An hon. Member: What do you know about salmon?

Mr. Danson: In response to the hon. member, I have had a close association with salmon, in all its forms, all of my life. This is a serious matter which the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Carter) has raised. It is a new venture into international relations which has been raised in the House. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) said in answer to a question asked by the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) on, I believe, May 3, this is the strongest representation made on commercial grounds that has ever been made, in his memory, in our country's history in relation to any other country. As the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said, boycotts or sanctions in cases such as this are not government policy.

Our position has been made clear to the government of Denmark. It will be discussed at the International Conference for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. The hon. member is calling for a step which is not consistent with Canada's stance in the past. The fact that the Danes are not recognizing the Canadian position in this matter is not reason for us to retaliate and make the situation that much worse. I think that Canada's position is a proper one. We do not think the Danish position is proper. I think private-