

should be utilized instead of wasting fuel. I wonder if the minister would indicate if he can change his answer now in respect of the need for an over-all build-up in capacity so that we can save our fishing industry which is so vital to Canada.

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): I am afraid the hon. member may not have understood what I was trying to convey. There must be fisheries officers who, by treaty, are entitled to board and who are scientifically trained to make the assessment of the foreign trawlers' catch. If they are transported on the destroyer—and I do not belittle this—it remains rather expensive. I think it is very important that the fishery surveillance not be totally dependent on the armed forces. If the armed forces can be of assistance, and they are, all the better.

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State (Fisheries). In answering the question today did he consider what Admiral Boyle said over the weekend that if the Department of the Environment was now building two vessels which would cost \$30 million, these destroyers would be left idle there and not be used for surveillance?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): I would be the first to cheer if we could have a destroyer-trawler and scientific-vessel all in one. At the moment we do not have that, and I would certainly be irresponsible if I did not believe that the construction of fisheries vessels is necessary for fisheries purposes. There are also some scientific experiments which are done by these vessels which cannot be undertaken by destroyers.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

ALLEGED STATEMENTS OF ADMIRAL BOYLE TO CONSERVATIVES IN HALIFAX—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the government House leader at this time, which arises out of the last two questions and out of statements made by Vice Admiral Douglas Boyle to a weekend caucus of the Conservative Party in Halifax. In view of the fact that these comments went far beyond the scope of propriety, and even constitutional propriety in these matters, what measures is the government contemplating to discipline that vice admiral?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Defence informed me this morning that the chief of the defence staff, General Dextraze had called Admiral Boyle to Ottawa to discuss his appearance before the Conservative caucus in Halifax.

Oral Questions

TRADE

POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING EXPORTERS INFLATION INSURANCE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Is it the intention of the government to follow the example of Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan in making it possible for our exporters to buy inflation insurance to be used on contracts where the customer is willing only to place a fixed price bid, and thereby make it possible for our exporters to go after a great deal of this business, which at the present time they are forced to pass up?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the Export Development Corporation has noted the particular measures taken by some of the other foreign governments. This matter is under very active consideration at the present time in the Export Development Corporation, and I would hope to be able to make an announcement in due course.

Mr. Hees: In view of the minister's answer, why is it that the government has always to lag so far behind our competitors in introducing these progressive measures, thus making it possible for them to get the jump on our exporters and putting our trade in the deplorable position it is in today?

● (1430)

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, these measures the hon. member alludes to are measures that I believe would not be in accordance with the spirit of the undertaking or the gentleman's agreement reached last September after the IMF series of meetings. If you are going to make an international system work it seems to me you have to work internationally.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: You have to be an Oxford boy to come out with that one.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gillespie: Canada is not going to be the first to break the international agreement.

An hon. Member: That fellow must be a Rhodes scholar.

Mr. Gillespie: Let me make it very clear that given the actions of certain countries, unless these actions are rescinded, and they may be, Canada will be alongside.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact our exports have been falling and our imports have been rising rapidly, and I have reference to those people of other countries who have been doing this to Canada, does the minister not feel that everybody is out of step but Alastair?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!