

Mr. De Bané: All the participants in the fishery in St. John's were there to prepare their consultative reports to the Minister of Fisheries. I will not jeopardize the consultative process wherein all participants have their say. The Minister of Fisheries, with the provincial Minister of Fisheries, will be making a decision on time for the new fishing season.

Mr. Crosbie: These are your decisions.

Mr. De Bané: I think it is time the Hon. Member realizes that Newfoundlanders are fed up with a guy playing politics with Newfoundland's most vital industry.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: Come down and run there, and you will see.

FUTURE OF INDEPENDENT FISHING COMPANIES

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, I, too, wish to direct a question to the Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. When he nationalized the "big five" in Atlantic Canada, in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, he actually made sacrificial lambs of the 200 or more independent operators who survived the Government's mismanagement of the fisheries. Since the spokesman for the independents stated that the Government-created monster could destroy the life investment of private operators and thousands of jobs in Atlantic Canada, will the Minister take steps to see that the independents are involved in the Government-controlled company's negotiations on wage settlements, on fish prices, on quota arrangements, and on fishing zones?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member remembers that the Premier of Nova Scotia, when he gave his joint press conference with me, took pains to emphasize that we were not talking about nationalization. We are talking of a company with several shareholders because that company is on the stock market, as you know. It will continue to be publicly traded. The creditors will sit on the board. No civil servant will be part of it, certainly not from my Department, precisely not to put the Department in a position of conflict of interest.

● (1450)

Second, I have the greatest sympathy for our dynamic private entrepreneurs in Atlantic Canada, particularly in Nova Scotia. I can give them the assurance that while that company will be run as a commercial business and will have to compete in the marketplace, it will be looked at by the Department in exactly the same way as others. I can give the firmest assurances on that to our dynamic private sector in Atlantic Canada.

REQUEST THAT AUDITOR GENERAL EXAMINE BOOKS OF RESTRUCTURED COMPANY

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, when the federal Government owns 60 per cent of the stock in this

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restructured company, the provincial Government owns 25 per cent, and the Bank of Nova Scotia owns 15 per cent, that, in my view, is nationalization. That is what we face.

The Minister's deputy has stated publicly that the restructured company has no set policy on profit margins. Will the Government permit the Auditor General of Canada to examine the books of this new Government-supported company annually? How will the Government of Canada inject its \$75 million into the Province of Newfoundland and its \$90 million into the Province of Nova Scotia? When will the Government release its secret agreement with the Bank of Nova Scotia?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, in response to the first part of the question, I am surprised that the Hon. Member puts the Bank of Nova Scotia in the public sector. This is quite a stretching of reality.

As for the other questions, I can say to the Hon. Member that I take notice of two or three specific inquiries that he made and I will answer him as quickly as possible. I want to assure the Hon. Member that that company will have to be run as a commercial business. If a Government ever wants to destroy a corporate decision of that company it will have to pay the full cost of it. That company will have to compete in the marketplace and not be permitted to count on unlimited funds. It should make its services available to the private sector which would like to use them for marketing or other purposes. I do not see that company as an unfair competitor. If that were so, then the remaining independent sector would have legitimate grounds for grievance.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD WELFARE

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Canadian Indians appearing before the United Nations working group on indigenous people protested child welfare practices that led to apprehension of their children, their placement in non-Indian homes, and their eventual assimilation. In response the Government indicated that it was now transferring responsibility to Indian communities for their own child welfare. In light of these facts why has the Minister disallowed recent band by-laws that would have recognized the bands' responsibility for child welfare in their own jurisdiction?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member has quite accurately stated, we have moved very significantly in three or four Provinces toward entering into agreements with the Indian people and the Provinces for turning over welfare services to Indians so that there will not be Indian children put with non-Indian families any longer.

With reference to some by-laws that Indian bands may have passed, I have no choice. If independent legal advice indicates