

*Privilege***CITIZENSHIP**

Mr. Stan Dromisky (Thunder Bay—Atikokan, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

We all know the government has in place an award that recognizes the commitment and contributions of adults who promote good citizenship in the communities across this wonderful country of ours. What is this government doing to recognize the citizenship contribution of Canada's young people?

Ms. Mary Clancy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question.

I am absolutely delighted to have the opportunity to advise the House that on April 21 the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration announced the Northern Star Citation to recognize public service and responsible citizenship among Canada's youth.

The new citizenship citation will pay tribute to youth who have contributed in their schools, neighbourhoods, and communities. I can tell the House that the Northern Star is an initiative that is very close to the minister's heart. It recognizes the exemplary citizenship contributions of Canada's young people, anglophone, francophone and allophone, the people who will build the multicultural Canada of tomorrow.

* * *

● (1200)

FISHERIES

Mr. Chuck Strahl (Fraser Valley East, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Less than a month ago the government extended Canada's jurisdiction beyond the 200-mile limit in order to catch Spanish poachers who were abusing turbot stocks off the east coast. However in British Columbia six conspirators who pleaded guilty to poaching herring roe were let off with absolute discharges, the last one given the absolute discharge on May 5.

Will the minister show the same concern for the tiny herring and the tiny salmon clinging by their fingernails on the west coast as he did for the turbot stocks on the east coast and launch an appeal of those absolute discharges immediately?

Hon. Brian Tobin (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, when it comes to making his case, having ensured that he used a good source for the information he has just given to the House, the member has lost his fingernails. He is skidding on his chin.

I know the member has a genuine interest in the health of the salmon stocks. The individuals in the case in question, because I checked yesterday, pleaded guilty. They entered a guilty plea and it was accepted by the court. The amount of product in question, contrary to reports in British Columbia, which were erroneous, was not \$1 million. It was \$70 and it was confiscated by the court and returned to the crown.

On the question of whether or not there was confusion and whether these individuals had been advised, I am told by a lawyer that they had a right to engage in this fishery. The judge came to the conclusion that there was sufficient doubt and that no further penalty would be imposed.

With respect to future activity of this sort DFO will prosecute. There can be no doubt that charges would be laid and substantial fines for those who engage in this kind of activity.

The Deputy Speaker: Question period is over, colleagues. Four members were not able to ask questions today, perhaps because of long questions or long answers. I apologize to those four members.

* * *

PRIVILEGE

ALLEGED CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

The Reform Party today made an allegation that the hon. member for Prince Alberta—Churchill River has a conflict of interest because he was honoured by his constituents. That is a fairly serious allegation.

We tend to let most things go in the House because there has to be a give and take in democracy. However, it is fundamental to the rights of any member that he or she can stand up with impunity and charge a member who is not in the House, who happens to be chair of the aboriginal committee, with a conflict of interest, which is illegal and immoral.

I respectfully submit, Mr. Speaker, that you either rule on it or that the hon. member should withdraw the remark.

Mr. John Duncan (North Island—Powell River, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I did not hear all of the minister's comments, but what I am saying is that there is a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest. I said that it was done knowingly or unknowingly. I am asking for the minister's clarification. I would like to pursue this matter. If the minister would like to clarify it for me that would be a good follow up. I will follow up through the regular mechanism of question period.