

[English]

**TRANSPORT****DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF NEW OVER-ALL POLICY**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport who has been relieved of some of his extra parliamentary duties. I wonder if he is now in a position to give us some hope that the mess he discovered might be cleaned up quickly. Can he give us a time frame in which we might expect to see some fairly definitive proposals emanating from his department? How long is this likely to take?

**An hon. Member:** Ten years.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, generally speaking, I think this is a fair question to put to a minister but the hon. member knows the extent of the Department of Transport which covers airports, railways, airplanes, runways, ports and so forth. If he wants an answer on each of these subjects, I hope he will be patient enough to remain in the House next time I speak because an answer would take a couple of hours. I was working hard with the transport ministers from the west last week and we achieved a few things. We are achieving a few things in Saint John, New Brunswick; we are trying to work in Nova Scotia as well and we are trying to get an airport for Prince Edward Island. If the hon. member wants a full answer I can prepare a book and give him that.

**Mr. Stanfield:** The minister knows my questions are always fair and I am just seeking some information.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** This one is fair.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I am prepared to wait for the book, but the minister has been saying for some time that he was going to produce a fundamental reform in the whole approach to transportation in Canada, that the legislation is not adequate and his department is not capable of coping with what is going on. When are we going to get that fundamental reform, allowing that the minister is working hard doing this in the west and doing that in the maritime provinces. When are we going to get the mess cleaned up that I thought the minister was talking about?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not want to intervene in this scintillating exchange. Recent comments compel me to say that general questions invite long, general answers. These are made not at the expense at the Chair but at the expense of other members who wish to take part in the question period. I hope this matter will be considered.

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● (1510)

**FISHERIES****REQUEST FOR AID TO FISHERMEN AS RESULT OF CLOSURE OF LA HAVE, BROWN'S AND GEORGES BANKS—POSSIBILITY OTHER NATIONS FISHING THESE AREAS**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of State responsible

*Oral Questions*

for Fisheries. In light of the economic hardship faced by inshore fishermen in Nova Scotia due to the closure of La Have, Brown's and Georges Banks, what action is the government taking to assist these fishermen during this period of economic hardship, and would the minister inform the House if other nations are adhering to ICNAF regulations by refraining from fishing operations on the three banks named.

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)):** Mr. Speaker, a delegation from the area came to Ottawa for a prolonged meeting on Monday. The meeting involved officials, myself and other interested groups. We identified the problems. There was agreement that the solution would not be in reopening the banks, for reasons of conservation and preservation of stocks for the future. We are now looking at every possible avenue to reduce the hardship—I recognize that there is some hardship connected with this problem and I would like it to be as limited as possible. The delegation which came here appointed three of its members to continue working with our officials to this end.

As to the second question, I have no knowledge of other nations fishing in this area. We have a patrol ship in the area, which is watching it as closely as possible. I will check again; there might be some incidents which have not yet been reported to me.

**CLOSURE OF LA HAVE, BROWN'S AND GEORGES BANKS—NUMBER OF SHIPS PATROLLING AREA TO ENSURE OTHER NATIONS NOT FISHING**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister indicate the number of ships which are carrying out surveillance of this area, which is a vast one, and say how many reports he is receiving on fishing activity. Are they made on a daily, weekly or monthly basis? Also, will he say categorically that Canadian fishing activity is not being restricted while other nations are reaping this resource, because, according to my information, other nations are still fishing on Georges Banks.

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)):** Mr. Speaker, we will look into these allegations. I know that at times more than one ship patrols the area, but I will check and report to the hon. member.

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**COMMUNICATIONS****ABANDONED PINE TREE RADAR BASE—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PREVENT DAMAGE—INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE FUTURE USE**

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, I will not ask a supplementary question. Did Your Honour recognize me for a supplementary question?

**Mr. Speaker:** No.

**Mr. Marshall:** We must be coming to the end of the question period.