

review, and we are trying to find ways to provide the best service to the population, and also the best ways to create as many jobs as possible in the railways or ferry services.

[English]

Mr. Muir: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for his reply. However, he still has not advised me whether it is the policy of this government to provide subsidies to private shipping firms which acquire old ships with funds, in many cases, from the treasury and go into business in competition with Crown corporations which were set up to ship goods from the mainland, North Sydney—the port from which goods are to be shipped—to Newfoundland. Why is the government doing that and destroying the opportunities for CN Marine and CN generally to use their own ships, which on many occasions are lying idle?

[Translation]

Mr. Lapointe: Mr. Speaker, the government subsidy policy, as far as I know, does not necessarily apply to help private companies make profits, but rather to provide the best service to any population. As for the specific point raised by the hon. member, I will be glad to try and get more information for him.

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[English]

FISHERIES

RIGHTS OF INDIAN BANDS

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment: it relates to questions asked previously regarding bylaw No. 10 passed by an Indian band on the west coast.

Are there other bylaws which have been passed under the authority of the Indian Act which would literally give control over fisheries to Indian bands? Are there other bylaws than bylaw No. 10 presently awaiting consideration by either the Ministry of Fisheries or the Ministry of Indian Affairs and Northern Development regarding their acceptance?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, as my colleague said in the House—and I read *Hansard*—the issue involving management of fisheries in relation to native people's claims and these bylaws is one we are endeavouring to resolve. I think this has to be done with a very reasonable approach. I am sure the hon. member would want to avoid a situation such as we have seen on the other side of the line, in the United States, where a judgment of the court has created a nightmare in respect of management of fisheries on the west coast of the United States. It is to avoid that sort of situation that my colleague and I are taking a very responsible route and a very responsible approach rather than a legalistic one.

Oral Questions

I know of one other bylaw that was proposed. I objected to it. My colleague has looked at it and has suggested the sort of changes which I think can accommodate both our aims.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, speaking of the need to be responsible, perhaps I should compliment the minister on his letter to the editor the other day regarding a much more serious matter, and I do so. I know in his responses he is trying to be responsible. However, I come from a maritime province where fisheries are of great importance to the economy of the area—specifically, British Columbia. There is a great deal of confusion now as to just who is going to control the rivers in which salmon return annually to spawn and from which the harvest is taken. The confusion that seems to exist between the minister and—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member put his question.

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize for being so extensive. Could the minister tell the House if there is now a debate going on between his ministry and another ministry as to whether the Government of Canada has final authority over the fisheries in anadromous fish streams; or are we, in fact, faced with a dilemma in the law of the country regarding whether that authority is to be shared with Indian bands or given away to them?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, when I made reference to people who are not responsible, I was not referring to the hon. member. He has been extremely responsible in his questions on this issue, because he recognizes the problem. There is no debate about the authority of the Government of Canada over fisheries' management in respect of fish returning to spawning grounds, etc. The only question is in respect of access to fish which might be affected by Indian band bylaws under the Indian Act. In that case, we are looking for what will possibly not be a legalistic approach but an intelligent approach which recognizes that the Indian food fishery has had a very high priority, not only in the department of my colleague but in my department as well.

The other matter, of course, relates to good conservation and fair distribution of fish to all users of the resource. I might say that responsible leaders in Indian communities do not disagree with this approach.

● (1452)

CONSTRUCTION OF WHARF ON TUSKET ISLAND, N.S.

Miss Coline Campbell (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment and concerns the proposed fisheries' industrial park on Tusket Island.

The minister had agreed to go ahead with the joint construction of a wharf on Tusket Island with the previous government of Nova Scotia. Has this proposed joint wharf construction been ratified by the new government of Nova Scotia and, if so, how soon can construction of a wharf in this area be started? If not, will the minister press to seek approval from the new