

and during the discussions on that subject the representations of the director of the Combines Investigation Branch were made well known to the cabinet.

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FISHERIES

ALLEGED LANDINGS OF SWORDFISH IN UNITED STATES BY CANADIANS—POSSIBLE CHANGE IN REGULATIONS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. In view of the fact that the U.S. Department of Commerce news report B-127 of Tuesday, October 25, 1977 lists as imports fresh swordfish from Canada on the vessels *Carlo Joyce* on September 30, 1977 and the *Sea Gull* on October 5, 1977 at Boston, Massachusetts, a species that the minister has been telling us for years could not be landed in the United States, I would ask him whether there have been any recent developments in the fishery of which Canadian fishermen generally are unaware and, if not, would the minister enlighten the House as to why such a listing should occur in this U.S. publication?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the publication in question. The hon. member knows very well, and I said it in the House, that it is the import regulation of the national government, that is the government whose seat of power is in Washington, which is causing difficulty through the Food and Drug Administration. There is nothing to stop individual states—in this case, if I understand the hon. member's statement, it was in Boston, therefore Massachusetts—from importing within their own landing ports fish from Canada. If the U.S. import regulations under the national government's regulations were lifted, we would certainly authorize the landing of swordfish.

Mr. Crouse: For the minister's information, because obviously he is not informed of this matter, the publication to which I referred is U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—

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

Mr. Crouse: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The publication to which I referred indicates that fresh swordfish were landed by Canadian registered vessels in Boston, Massachusetts, not by U.S. ships as the minister infers, and I gave him the names of the ships. I would ask the minister if he will check into this and ascertain under what regulations these landings were permitted and also when we can anticipate—in view of the fact that fish are being landed and that fishery represents a \$5 million to \$6 million industry to Atlantic Canada where there is massive unemployment at present—a statement from him regarding the possibility of reopening the swordfishery to all Atlantic Canada?

Oral Questions

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): At the risk of being repetitious I must again tell the hon. member that there is nothing in the United States regulations, so far as we know, to stop fish from being landed in the port of a state. It is interstate trade which is not allowed by the Food and Drug Administration and also clearance by customs and excise—I do not know what the equivalent in the United States is—which is not given because of the regulations of the Food and Drug Administration. We are working through our Department of National Health and Welfare in trying to make the case that the regulations applying to swordfish, which is not eaten frequently, poses no threat to health. At the moment the health authorities in both countries have not come around to our point of view, but I am hoping they may do so eventually.

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FINANCE

REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE OF LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT NEXT YEAR

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In his October 20 statement the minister offered a forecast of the level of inflation next year and of real growth in this country but he avoided very carefully any estimate as to what the level of unemployment might be, although he did acknowledge the current 8.3 per cent unemployment level. Would the minister now inform the House what he anticipates the level of unemployment to be next year in Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I did not specify a figure in my speech, but I hope that with a growth rate of 5 per cent the unemployment rate in Canada will decline.

[English]

Mr. Stevens: Again my question is for the Minister of Finance. As OECD has asked that all member countries belonging to that organization set targets, including targets for unemployment, would the minister indicate whether he is willing to accept the suggestion of establishing an unemployment target and, if so, what is the unemployment target level that he is heading for next year?

Mr. Chrétien: It is a very complex issue because when the former minister of finance, the hon. member for Rosedale, introduced his last budget he made the prediction that 250,000 jobs would be created this year in Canada. In fact, we have achieved that level, but the increase in the participation rate of the labour force in Canada has been so large that, despite the fact we have created the 250,000 more jobs, unfortunately the level of unemployment has increased.

Mr. Stevens: My question is directed again to the Minister of Finance. Accepting the fact that the question is complicated, may I point out that the minister has indicated that we are heading for a \$9.2 billion deficit in the current fiscal year.