

Oral Questions

the Amiens subdivision means that people who settled this area in good faith are now being betrayed because of the lack of co-operation between the railways and the government?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that that is the kind of comment the hon. member will want to put in his submission to the Canadian Transport Commission.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**BENEFITS OF COMMON MARKET WITH CARIBBEAN**

Mr. F. A. Philbrook (Halton): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce or, if it is more appropriate, to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Recently an announcement was made about a trade and economic co-operation agreement between the governments of the Caribbean common market and Canada. In that regard, could the relevant minister inform the House what benefits will be available for Canada?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there are many different benefits to come from it, but I do not think that I would be permitted to go into detail at this time. I will be glad to provide a copy of the agreement and of the statements made at the time it was signed.

FISHERIES—NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES

Mr. Stuart Leggett (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs: it concerns the present state of boundary negotiations in terms of the west coast.

Could the Secretary of State for External Affairs advise the House if the Canadian delegation is now actively considering a proposal to move the territorial boundary at the Dixon Entrance south, in exchange for some territory in the 200-mile zone? Is that presently under consideration by the Canadian delegation?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, without attempting to be evasive, I think the hon. member knows that it is not customary to reveal the details of negotiating positions; but I think that I can tell him that there is nothing that has been in any sense firmed up with regard to the west coast. A number of proposals have been put forward by both sides, but beyond that I do not think that it would be appropriate for me to comment.

● (1500)

Mr. Leggett: I wonder if the minister could give me some assurance that the Government of Canada does not intend to move that boundary south? If he could give the House that assurance, he might be able to satisfy many of the people who live in the north.

Could he also tell us whether these negotiations, which have been going on for a long time, have an internal time limit, set by the minister? Has there been some agreement in terms of an international forum to ultimately settle the dispute between this country and the United States both on fisheries and on boundaries?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, on the first part of the question I can give the hon. member the assurance—and I repeat to him what I said earlier—that there is no offer from Canada. A number of proposals have been put forward in one way or the other, but as of this moment it is merely a matter of negotiation.

On the broader question, quite frankly, I do not know what the outcome is going to be on the west coast. We have had extreme difficulty as to any kind of basis on which an agreement might be formulated not only with our own Canadian fishing community but also with that community as it relates to the fishing community in Alaska and the United States. I think the hon. member knows that we have been involving all of the parties. I believe, incidentally, that our Canadian negotiators are in Alaska—if not today, they will be tomorrow—talking about halibut, for example.

It is exceedingly difficult to get an arrangement with regard to a species which affects one group of fishermen when the trade-off may be another species which is of interest to another group of fishermen. It is extremely complicated, I repeat. On the question of whether it is going to go to third party arbitration, no decision on that has been arrived at on the west coast, but I think the hon. member knows that within a short time, perhaps within 24 hours, we will be announcing a decision in that regard for the east coast.

NEGOTIATIONS ON CANADIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I was trying to catch your eye to put it to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, but perhaps it would be more appropriate to put it to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns Canada's north coast and the same negotiations.

Reports are fairly positive that at the fisheries negotiations the United States is laying claim to a considerable area of Canada's territorial waters east of the Yukon-Alaska boundary on the basis that the sector theory does not apply. Can the minister tell us whether such a claim is being made by the United States to Canadian territorial waters and, if so, can he assure the House that the Government of Canada is taking a firm stance that in no way will any portion of Canada's