

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

VICTORIA CONFERENCE—CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENT AMONG CERTAIN PROVINCIAL DELEGATIONS—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION BY PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Last Tuesday I asked him a question concerning a document which was circulated among some provincial delegations at the last conference in Victoria.

In his reply, the Prime Minister asked me to supply him with details. This having been done, could the Prime Minister indicate now whether he recognizes the authenticity of such document, who was responsible for its circulation, and whether he himself was in favour of such a procedure?

Mr. Speaker: I have serious doubts on certain aspects of the question put by the hon. member. If the Prime Minister could answer it briefly the Chair would recognize him.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, you know as well as I do how difficult it is to answer briefly. I shall try to do so but I hope that the brevity of the answer will not prevent the hon. member from asking supplementaries if it is not clear enough.

To the first question, I shall answer that I am aware of the existence of these documents because they were sent to several provinces. They were prepared, as usual, at federal-provincial conferences in order to explain the position of the federal government, as the provinces themselves produce documents to explain their views.

Finally, let me tell you that I of course agree with this method by which each delegation makes known to the others its position in respect of the proposals made by other participants.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if the member—

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, could the right hon. Prime Minister tell us whether this document was given to all the provinces and particularly to Quebec?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the document in question was prepared at the request of the provinces taking part in the federal-provincial conference of health ministers. Several provinces asked the federal minister to give them some explanations as to what might be the consequences for them of the proposals made by Quebec a few days earlier and the federal government willingly agreed to explain—the way he understood them—what consequential effects Quebec's proposals would have for the provinces.

As for the second part of the question, I shall answer in the affirmative. Even at Victoria, the Quebec delegation was made aware of the federal positions as they had been explained to the other provinces which had asked about them.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[English]

FISHERIES

CANADIAN POSITION AS PRESENTED TO ICNAF MEETING—REQUEST FOR BACKGROUND DATA

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. Based on the minister's statement today about quotas being introduced for marine resources off our shores, has he prepared any background information in the form of scientific data or catch data to present to the ICNAF countries, and is the minister prepared to make that information available to the House of Commons?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I understand that scientists from all 15 member nations have been meeting in Washington during the past week. They have been producing statistics, comparing them and reaching conclusions as to sustainable yield. We will try to get their figures and make them available to the hon. member.

Mr. Lundrigan: In view of the fact that over the years the proposals that Canada has made regarding conservation measures for marine resources have been rejected by several ICNAF countries, does Canada have any unilateral plan of action based on the rights we have as a coastal state under the 1958 Law of the Sea Conference held at Geneva?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, our approach has been a multilateral one within the North West Atlantic Fisheries Commission. We have been quite successful, first in establishing quotas for haddock, as the hon. member knows, and more recently for herring. We hope that this quota arrangement will be extended to all species along our eastern seaboard.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the Chair should recognize the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants. I see a number of members wanting to ask questions supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate. That might fill the rest of the question period as we only have about five minutes left. For the moment, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE STALKING OF PRESIDENT NIXON BY ARTHUR BREMER DURING OTTAWA VISIT

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Solicitor General. Did Canadian security forces believe that one Arthur Bremer had engaged in stalking President Nixon during his Ottawa visit and, if so, did they report such action or belief to their United States counterparts?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have heard of this report and, indeed, discussed it with the Solicitor General. We agreed that he should ask for a report so we can see what action should be taken.