

Senator Roblin: I accepted my honourable friend's statement from the beginning, but I told him that we had to try. We had some successes. Some new factories have gone up in that neck of the woods.

Senator MacEachen: No one has seen them. They are invisible.

Senator Doody: They're safer that way.

Senator Roblin: I have to admit that there is many a slip between an announcement and a factory but, in any case, we think that there is going to be one. I will try to ascertain an answer to my honourable friend's question about the iron works.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS

SALE OF CANNED TUNA UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: Honourable senators, my question is to the Leader of the Government and it is a follow-up on the question by Senator De Bané with reference to Starkist tuna. Obviously, the minister was facing three problems: the first, he said, was to save that factory; the second, to prevent children and older people in Canada from being poisoned by bad food; and, the third, to preserve the reputation of Canadian food exports. He could have achieved all three objectives, but he chose the worst possible course for all three. He did not save that factory; in fact, he has destroyed it because its reputation is now in shreds. He has put on the shelves of supermarkets food that is dangerous to the health of Canadians not to mention cats. As far as the outside clientele of Canada for our fish, which is a major export earning us \$2 billion a year is concerned, they will never trust a Canadian product again unless the person resigns who took the incredible course of rejecting two recommendations by qualified experts saying that this food was dangerous and seeking a third who would be compliant by saying that it was safe.

Senator Flynn: Very good speech!

Senator Gigantès: Will the Leader of the Government convey to the minister that there are a lot of people out there who dislike having their health endangered because of such monumental errors in common sense?

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I think I may regard that as an expansion of the question originally asked by Senator De Bané and I will give my honourable friend an expanded answer.

[Translation]

Senator Gigantès: When putting forth his question could the Leader of the Government also ask the Minister of Fisheries whether he has the fishes or Pisces as his astrological sign.

[English]

DECISION OF MINISTER RE LICENCE—REQUEST FOR ANSWER

Hon. John B. Stewart: Honourable senators, the Leader of the Government in the Senate has said that he is going to get an accurate answer with regard to this matter. I wonder if

[Senator MacEachen.]

while he is doing that he could get an answer to another question relative to another decision of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Honourable senators will recall that on June 27, 1985 Senator Thériault asked a question about the transfer by the minister of a licence from one fishing vessel to another over the objections of officials of the department. I asked if the Leader of the Government would ascertain what considerations the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans detected which brought him to the conclusion which was contrary to that of the officials in his department. The Leader of the Government took my question as notice because he wanted to give an absolutely correct reply—those were his words. He is now taking another question as notice. Will we have to wait as long for an answer to the question raised today as we have had to wait for an answer to the question raised on June 27, 1985? I realize that we were in recess, but I had hoped for an answer to that important question yesterday.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I do not know whether my honourable friend would be interested in giving me any credit for being psychic but I have his answer here on my desk and as soon as Question Period is over and I am allowed to table delayed answers I will let him have it because we always try to deliver the goods. I would remind my honourable friend that he asked his question at the tail end of the last session, and he gets his answer on the first day that I am present. I hope that that will be counted for merit somewhere along the line.

Senator Stewart: I think that this is an admirable precedent which I hope the Leader of the Government will follow consistently in the future.

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

BILATERAL TRADE—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Jerahmiel S. Grafstein: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. Yesterday there appeared a story in the *Gazette* dealing with the subject of bilateral trade with the United States. The story quotes the press secretary, Mr. Fox, as suggesting that the Prime Minister, Mr. Mulroney, is actively seeking, and these are his words, "a great negotiator to head the Canadian team that will discuss free trade with the United States."

This summer I was one of your representatives on a special committee of the Senate and House of Commons to look into bilateral questions of trade. There was a unanimous recommendation by members of our side and the government side, excepting members of the NDP, that there would not be negotiations but that there would be discussions and the results of those discussions would be brought back to Parliament for further deliberations.

Could the Leader of the Government in the Senate now advise us as to whether or not the unanimous recommendations of the Conservative and the Liberal Parties on this question are now being sidestepped and that the government now intends to proceed to direct negotiations for a comprehen-