

QUESTION PERIOD

FISHERIES

CANADA-FRANCE NEGOTIATIONS—TERMS OF AGREEMENT— NORTHERN COD—TERMS OF ALLOCATION TO FRANCE

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I have a "caring" question for the Leader of the Government under the rubric of the caring nation. That is one of his literary inventions, no doubt.

As honourable senators know, this chamber has been greatly interested in the Canada-France fisheries negotiations, and I understand that a settlement has now been reached. I have one or two questions to ask the Leader of the Government today, and I should like possibly to ask further questions after I look at the settlement itself and the notes that have been exchanged between the governments of Canada and France. Can the Leader of the Government give us a copy of the settlement that has been reached and tell us whether that settlement is identical with the notes that we are advised have been exchanged between Canada and France, or are these separate documents?

● (1410)

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, to be more precise, there has been an agreement which will allow the matter to go to arbitration by an international tribunal. I shall have to inquire whether there is available the kind of documentation the honourable senator is looking for, such as notes between Canada and France. I do not have those with me today in any case.

Senator MacEachen: Honourable senators, I understand there has been a settlement on interim quotas between the two countries. It is true that the arbitration of the boundaries is to take place within the period of three years, but there are interim quotas now established. The press release does not mention the amount of the quota of northern cod allocated to France. Can the minister tell us the tonnage of northern cod, which for the first time ever has been allocated to France as a separate allocation, and whether that allocation expires at the end of the three-year arbitration period, or is it an indefinite allocation that will continue on into the future after the boundaries have been set?

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, I will try to obtain that information from my colleague and convey it to the Senate tomorrow.

CANADA-FRANCE NEGOTIATIONS—LENGTH OF ARBITRATION— CANADIAN MEMBERS OF TRIBUNAL

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, there is one other thing. I note that five presumably eminent judges have been appointed to undertake the arbitration. Can the minister tell us why such a long period is set aside for the arbitration, namely, three years, in view of the urgency that is associated with the settlement of the

boundaries? Presumably, a settlement will increase Canadian jurisdiction over the disputed zone and permit Canada to regulate the current overfishing in that zone. Why was it decided to take such a leisurely pace in reaching a conclusion to a matter which is of urgent importance, particularly in Newfoundland? That is my first point, and maybe the minister will want to take that as notice.

Secondly, can the minister tell us—maybe by way of tabling their *curricula vitae*—who these persons are who are entrusted with this important Canadian interest? We know that Mr. Gotlieb is a member of the tribunal. I certainly think that he is well qualified and will speak skilfully on behalf of Canada, but I do not have any information on the backgrounds of the others. Could the minister give us some information on that?

Senator Frith: Simon Reisman is between engagements!

Senator Marshall: He started a war!

ELIMINATION OF PREDATORY OVER-FISHING—GOVERNMENT EFFORTS

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, concerning the fisheries, and having given these questions as notice to the minister, I wish to raise another point in the Speech from the Throne that attracted my attention. It is found under the heading of "Canada's International Role". In fact, the only definite point made in that full page referred to over-fishing outside the 200-mile limit where Canada's regulations no longer apply. I was gratified to note that the government will intensify its international efforts to put an end to all of these practices. However, I wonder what international efforts the government is referring to. Is Canada now seeking international agreement to extend the 200-mile limit, as was done pursuant to the Law of the Sea? In other words, what are these efforts that the government will now intensify? Perhaps the Leader of the Government can give us some information tomorrow.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): I will be glad to do that, honourable senators.

AGRICULTURE

GATT NEGOTIATIONS—INTERNATIONAL GRAIN SUBSIDIES— GOVERNMENT POSITION, ROLE AND ACTION

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I should like to ask the Honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate if he can help the farmers in the part of Canada I represent to deal with, or at least to understand, one of the most important issues that they are facing today—namely, some stability and perhaps some strengthening of the price of grain, inasmuch as those same farmers are about to plant their 1989 crop.

I would draw to the attention of the Leader of the Government that I did raise this matter back in December. At that time there had been a meeting of the GATT in Montreal to discuss the question of agriculture and the price of grain in an attempt to reach some agreement so that the United States