

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## SUGGESTION FIXED PERIODS BE ADOPTED FOR SESSIONS

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the President of the Privy Council.

I introduced a motion earlier under Standing Order 43 requesting that the Committee on Procedure and Organization be ordered to look into the possibility of holding parliamentary sessions at fixed periods corresponding to the school year; as only one very weak no was heard, which leads one to believe that the majority of hon. members support the idea, may I ask the minister whether he would consider bringing a motion before the House so that all members might study the matter in the hope that an agreement can be reached whereby sessions might, in the future, be held at periods corresponding to the school year, thus allowing all members to lead a more normal life with their families?

● (1420)

[English]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council):** I find myself in general agreement with the hon. member that it would be desirable to have fixed dates on which this House could depend for holidays, school holidays or anything else. I know this idea has fairly general support among all hon. members. It is my hope that the Committee on Procedures will meet in the forthcoming weeks; I expect to enter into discussions with the House leaders of various parties to prepare an agenda and one of the objects will be to inject a little more certainty into the lives of parliamentarians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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## FISHERIES

## ALLEGED VIOLATION OF ICNAF REGULATIONS BY SOME NATIONS—THREAT TO CLOSE CANADIAN PORTS—POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT TO REDUCE QUOTAS

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** My question is for the Minister of State for Fisheries, Mr. Speaker. In view of the impending opening of the ICNAF conference, which is a crucial meeting for Canada and bearing in mind the minister's statement over the weekend that ICNAF members were not living up to their treaty obligations or quota agreements, does the hon. gentleman intend to reassess Canada's position in this treaty organization instead of making veiled threats like that of closing Canadian ports which will have little or no effect on ICNAF nations?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)):** If the hon. member had read the report of the parliamentary committee on fisheries and forestry, he would know that this was not a new statement about violations of quota. I did indicate at a public session some time ago that we had named names and made firm charges. I do not believe that

[Mr. Gillespie.]

leaving the organization would be a way of improving it. As for closures, some nations which are violating regulations of ICNAF and are not respecting articles and conditions of the treaty would be very seriously hit if our ports were closed to them.

**Mr. McGrath:** I can assure the minister that some of our ports, too, would be very seriously hit if they were closed. I am thinking of the Port of St. John's and the Port of Sydney. If the ICNAF nations are not prepared to live up to their quota and treaty obligations in the present situation, can the minister tell us how he expects this organization to agree to his commendable and worthwhile proposal to reduce quotas by 40 per cent?

**Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent):** The hon. member cannot have it both ways. On the one hand, he asks us to be tough vis-à-vis the violators, then, when we threaten to be tough, he asks us not to be.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

**Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent):** As for quotas, there are many quotas which are respected. Others are not. We have pinpointed those that are not. We shall be making statements at the meeting this week. We shall be putting the facts on the table and we have indicated that if there are further serious violations in the coming months we shall take action.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

## ALLEGED STATEMENT OF ADMIRAL BOYLE INCREASED FINANCIAL SUPPORT WOULD IMPROVE SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Has the minister discussed with the Minister of National Defence the very logical statement made by Admiral Boyle that if Maritime Command had more financial support they could provide the surveillance capability which we are going to have to wait for if we wait for the patrol vessels that are to be built in probably two or three years?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)):** Mr. Speaker, we certainly are appreciative of the fact that the forces have been helping us in surveillance, but on the other hand, I must say that using a destroyer as a boarding platform to transport two fisheries officers may not be very economical.

**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):** What about helicopters, Roméo?

**Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent):** The other point which has to be made is that when the military forces have priorities which are not those of fisheries, then we are left in a position of not having surveillance capacity. But that being said, I do not at all exclude the possibility of working with the forces, and we are working very closely with them at this time.

**Mr. Marshall:** I am a bit surprised that the minister would indicate that two fisheries officers would be on a destroyer. We need surveillance factors in the whole northwest Atlantic, and the capacity of these destroyers