

take action to convene an international conference on fish conservation. Second, I urge them to give protection to the other parts of the coast of Newfoundland by proclaiming the 12-mile limit in parts of my riding including Placentia Bay, the southern shore and St. John's where almost weekly fishermen are subjected to the deprecation of foreign ships which destroy their gear without regard for its cost or anything else.

I hope the parliamentary secretary, who I understand will be replying to me, will impress upon his minister the extent of the problem facing east coast fishermen and the need for the speedy imposition of regulations which will give our fishermen the protection they deserve.

[Translation]

**Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, we, on the government side, readily accept the challenge offered by the late show to explain the position of the government on such a pertinent and important matter as that of the conservation of our marine resources which, by the way, has given rise to many questions since the beginning of the current session, both from the hon. member and from his colleagues.

[English]

However, the conservation and better management of our marine resources is also one of the top priorities of the Minister of Fisheries and of the government. The Minister of Fisheries has stated in the House on a number of occasions that in order to exercise proper conservation measures Canada must manage the fisheries resource not only in our own exclusive inshore zone but over our large continental shelf. The government of Canada has established exclusive fishing zones and has also established exclusive management responsibilities over wider areas. This is a fact.

I believe the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) through various efforts has made significant progress in a little over two years. This has been widely recognized and acknowledged by many members opposite. Only recently, on March 5, he announced the phasing out of foreign fishing operations on Canada's east coast. The hon. member for Gander-Willington (Mr. Lundrigan) referred to the announcement as a very specific move. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett) on that occasion urged hon. members to support the action taken by the government. This is good, but we are not satisfied with this. My minister is hopeful that continued and greater advances will be accomplished within the next few years if not within the coming months. In order to more effectively secure international co-operation on the conservation of marine resources, Canada participates in nine international fisheries commissions.

One of the most important and most successful commissions has been the International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. All countries fishing in the northwest Atlantic are members of this commission. Canada will continue to exert every effort within the commission toward better conservation and management

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of our east coast fishing resources. The next annual meeting of the commission will be held in Halifax from May 27 to June 5 next, at which time we will again press for multilateral agreement on a number of Canadian proposals on the conservation of our Atlantic fishing resource.

NATIONAL DEFENCE—PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF  
CANEX STORE AT KINGSTON BASE—EFFECT  
ON MERCHANTS

**Mr. Desmond Code (Leeds):** Mr. Speaker, on March 16th, I asked the Minister of National Defence (Mr. MacDonald) whether or not his department was planning to establish Canex stores in the Kingston area for the use of armed forces personnel and their dependents, and in direct competition with civilian merchants in the area. At that time the Chair ruled that my question might be considered in the adjournment debate.

I welcome this opportunity to point up the seriousness and the urgency of my inquiries, Mr. Speaker, and to provide hon. members with some background on the Canex system. It is not my intention to question Canex as a concept or to suggest that our armed forces are not entitled to such services. My intention is simply to question the wisdom and the ethics of establishing Canex stores in the areas where military installations are adequately served by civilian merchants and tradespeople.

Canex is an acronym for Canadian Armed Forces Exchange System and, as the name implies, this service is designed to provide armed forces installations with shopping facilities. The range of services provided is very broad and includes such things as groceries, dry goods, clothing, luxury items and other commodities designed to improve the living conditions of military personnel and their families. Mr. Speaker, if it were not for Canex the military personnel serving in remote areas of the country would be denied goods and services to which they are entitled, and their lives would be considerably less interesting and less bearable.

There is another aspect of the Canex system that is worthy of note, Mr. Speaker, and that is the service that the system provides for our military personnel and families serving in foreign countries such as Germany and Cyprus. In such situations our people are able to purchase foods and other goods that are common to their own country, goods that are in many cases unavailable in the markets of the countries in which they are serving. This is a good thing, Mr. Speaker, and I commend those who designed the system initially and also those presently employed in the Canex system. They are doing a very worthwhile job.

However, Mr. Speaker, I return to my original question as to whether Kingston, Ontario, qualifies as either a foreign installation or a remote station where foods, dry goods and comfort items are not readily available. I think we can all agree that exactly the opposite is the case. Kingston has been a military area of some consequence since long before confederation. The people and the merchants of the area long ago became accustomed to living and working with military personnel and families and