

given to date, including notes contained in the exchange of correspondence, could also be a subject of any kind of analysis this Parliament would judge appropriate. We have nothing to hide. The matter is open to all Parliamentarians.

FISH INSPECTION SYSTEM—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Right Hon. Prime Minister.

Could the Prime Minister give the House the assurance that in future, there will be no recurrence of this kind of political interference with our inspection system?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): In my opinion, the action taken by the Minister was undoubtedly taken in good faith, in the interests, as he saw them, of the fishermen and jobs as well as of health and security. It was a value judgment he made with respect to a given situation.

He reflected another perception in his decision on Sunday which was transmitted to us today, and he is an honourable man for having done so.

[English]

INFORMATION GIVEN TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. There is a clear discrepancy between what the Prime Minister has said and what the former Minister of Fisheries said on Friday as to the extent of the information that was given to the Prime Minister's Office on this tuna fish affair.

The former Minister of Fisheries has indicated that the Prime Minister's Office was fully informed, with full details. The Prime Minister now tells the House that his office was given a phone call some time in July about a television program that might take place. That is very different.

My question to the Prime Minister is this. Will he confirm that officials from the Department of Fisheries informed his office on August 13 about an impending court case on this matter?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): I cannot confirm that specific date. I can confirm what I have already said that sometime this summer, I believe it was during the month of July, or I am so informed, an officer or officers from the staff of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans visited with an official from the Prime Minister's Office and conveyed to him a number of facts which I understand dealt with the imminent release of a television program dealing with the issue at hand.

The officer from the Prime Minister's Office apparently waited for this matter to be televised, it did not appear, and apparently concluded that that was that, and no information of any kind was transmitted to me. That is all of the information that I am able to convey to my hon. friend.

Oral Questions

NOTIFICATION OF IMPENDING LEGAL ACTION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a confusion of a number of different events here coming together in the Prime Minister's answer. My understanding is that the Minister of Fisheries took the correct action at that time, July 28, I understand, of informing the Prime Minister what was going on, according to the Minister of Fisheries, in considerable detail.

The question I just asked the Prime Minister was not about the July 28 meeting. It pertains to information that I am told was conveyed on August 13 about impending legal action involving the company producing the tuna fish that the country has heard so much about in recent days.

Can the Prime Minister confirm that officials from the Department of Fisheries informed his office in the middle of August about this situation?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): No, I cannot confirm, nor can I deny. I thought it was somewhat earlier, in the month of July, that this matter was raised in the manner in which I have described it.

The incident as it is reported to me, was that an event that took place in the winter or the spring that had already transpired was to become the object of a television report during the course of the summer. This was why the officials from the Department of Fisheries attended upon an official of any Department to apprise him of that. They explained apparently in some detail what the television program apparently was going to be about, and that was that. It did not appear and it was not brought to my attention.

Given this other date mentioned by my hon. friend which is subsequent to a date which is already acknowledged by me, I will be happy to look into it and provide him with all the details.

REQUEST FOR DISMISSAL OF OFFICIAL

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, considering the very serious implications of the fact that the Minister made an earlier decision and sent all this terrible fish out onto the supermarket shelves, given the result that that has led to which is, namely, the resignation of the Prime Minister—

An Hon. Member: That is who should have resigned.

Mr. Broadbent: —of the Minister of Fisheries, will the Prime Minister not agree that if his office were functioning properly, if he had been informed in the summer by the Minister of Fisheries, if he was informed by the Department of Fisheries some weeks later about legal action, and that if his office, the Prime Minister's Office, did nothing about that in the summer, they were negligent; the Prime Minister was negligent; and he should take corrective action and fire somebody in his office?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there are about three hypothetical dimensions—