

Commercial Fisheries Development

Mr. Pickersgill: I believe, sir, that was one of the items indicated on Friday last.

Mr. Starr: The order of business was indicated.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder, in view of the fact that the minister was not able to be here today, if we could not go on with the fisheries bill, and the export and import bill which my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce is prepared to proceed with.

Mr. Churchill: But our men are not here.

Mr. Pickersgill: Could we perhaps take the export and import bill next, on which I know the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre is more competent to speak than any member on the other side of the house.

Mr. Churchill: How did I know it was coming up now?

Mr. Knowles: You did not go too far away.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, we came prepared to take up the items that were listed on April 22. Why could we not now go ahead with the Science Council and with the Research Council?

Mr. Pickersgill: It was never anticipated by the government that we would make such wonderful progress as we have made today.

Mr. Starr: Why not?

Mr. Pickersgill: We thank you for your co-operation. My hon. friend the Minister of Industry is away on business, and he is the one who ought to be dealing with some of it.

Mr. Starr: Anybody else can do it.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think we should not make very good progress without having the minister present. If it is not convenient to go ahead with the fisheries bill in committee, for the convenience of the opposition we should be willing to take anything for which a minister is available. We should particularly like to go ahead with the export and import bill, because of its very great importance, and because of certain of its international aspects. That is No. 46 on today's order paper.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Chairman, the government house leader on Friday last set out the items that we were to consider. Consequently the opposition has prepared itself to consider items of business in that order.

[Mr. Starr.]

This afternoon shows another indication of the tremendous disorganization with which this government conducts its business from day to day. The house leader specifies the business one day, and then when that business is to come up no minister is on hand to take up that matter. The government should not try to juggle the order paper because it is not fair to the opposition.

The Minister of Transport now suggests an item that was not even listed by the house leader. We are certainly not prepared to go ahead, just because the minister happens to be prepared. It was not to have come up in this order. The work of the house has been set out by the government house leader.

Mr. Pickersgill: Of course the government is quite prepared to go ahead with the fisheries bill, which was one of the items listed. If that would suit the opposition perhaps we could proceed with it right away.

Mr. Churchill: Someone had better get the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg.

The Chairman: When the committee rose on March 18, last, the committee was about to consider clause 2 of the bill. Shall the clause carry?

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Chairman, perhaps at this time I should deal briefly with some of the matters raised during the discussion at the introduction stage of the bill, which is to provide for the development of the commercial fisheries of Canada. Matters mentioned by hon. members overlapped, to some degree. If hon. members will bear with me I am sure that I can cover all matters which have been raised.

● (8:00 p.m.)

Through this legislation we plan to bring several of the current development activities of the Department of Fisheries under one act. We want a more dynamic development program brought to bear on the fishing industry through the introduction of the latest developments in mechanization and the most efficient use of our fishery resources.

This bill provides for the exploration and development of known and entirely new fishery resources; for the introduction and demonstration to fishermen of new and improved types of vessels, equipment and fishing techniques, for the development of new fish products and for the improvement of product handling, processing and distribution.