

Oral Questions

I am aware, Mr. Speaker, that the hazardous products branch yesterday, acting on information which we originally gave them, sent a telex to each of the companies expressing concern. I would like to know if the minister is going to do more than just express concern, because this may be a serious health hazard for infants.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are aware of this situation. The information we now have indicates that these bottles should not be re-used. Our department will be working with the manufacturers of these bottles and other feeding systems to ensure that the hazards are clearly declared on the package and that other measures are taken to prevent their misuse.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, I have with me a letter from Ross Laboratories which reads in part:

They are designed to be used only once and then should be discarded.

They are made of regular glass which has a low resistance to heat shock.

From our survey, we found that many mothers and some hospitals use these bottles more than once. I ask the minister whether he will go further and ban this gift pack altogether from hospitals.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is correct; the bottles should be used only once. But whether we should go as far as banning the gift packs has not been considered. However, we will look into that question.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs would consult his colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, about the nutritional value of the other contents of the gift pack and ask whether she thinks it is wise that hospitals should be promoting baby foods such as this, which is really junk food, rather than promoting babies being fed in the natural way, which is breast feeding.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to make a judgment about the nutritional value of the pack in comparison with breast feeding, but I would be pleased to consult my hon. colleague about this.

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FISHERIES**LICENSING OF FREEZER TRAWLERS ON ATLANTIC COAST**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. In view of the fact that the Minister of Fisheries has now backed down from his arbitrary regulations as they apply to the scallop fishermen of Nova Scotia, and in view of the fact that a golden opportunity now exists in Atlantic Canada for catching under-utilized species such as silver hake, capelin, squid, offshore mackerel and grenadier, as stated by the processors of some 16 major companies in Nova Scotia, where they say they are convinced of the viability of freezer trawlers

[Mr. Nystrom.]

which they are prepared to lease or buy without Ottawa's assistance, is the minister prepared to listen to the voice of the people within the industry and permit the licensing of a limited number of freezer trawlers as a start toward establishing a new segment of the fishing industry in Atlantic Canada?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the consultation which took place between the offshore and the inshore fishermen at which they expressed readiness to look at a new regime for the Georges Bank should not be seen as a back down, but should simply be seen as an improvement and an acceptance on the part of the Bay of Fundy fleet to keep the catch level where it was in the past and not to keep increasing it.

I will be looking at the recommendations of the fishermen, and if they are acceptable I will, of course, approve them, because it is my constant approach that the fishermen themselves should have a strong voice in regulating their own fishery.

As for the point made by the hon. member, I would remind him that I do not have on my desk applications for freezer trawler licences which do not contain clauses which would allow these vessels to have access to cod, flounder or redfish. If it is only for silver hake, round-nosed grenadier and the underutilized species, my door is open.

● (1452)

Mr. Crouse: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In light of the charges that have been made about lack of consultation among the minister, the provincial ministers and the industry, would the minister agree to consult the representatives of the major processors in Nova Scotia so that he will at least be informed of their views as they apply to establishing a new industry in Atlantic Canada?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, the very day last week when the hon. member was participating in a special debate on the absence of consultation was the day that the offshore committee on groundfish in the Atlantic, which would cover the type of subject the hon. member talks about, was meeting. If my memory serves me correctly, it met for two days in Halifax. The provinces, the industry, the fishermen and the departments of fisheries are fully represented on that committee.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS**FISH LAKE, B.C.—CONTRACT WITH TOOSEY INDIAN BAND**

Mr. Jack Pearsall (Coast Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, but in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary. I have been advised that a contract entered into by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Toosey Indian Band in the Chilcotin part of my riding has fallen through.