

FISHERIES

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRESERVATION OF HERRING

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the serious decline in herring resources off the Atlantic coast of Canada, will the minister make a report to the House at an early date on the results obtained through his departmental studies of this matter along with any recommendations which may be made for the preservation and retention of this important species at the national as well as the international level?

• (11:40 a.m.)

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, this matter has been receiving serious study for several years. We are not absolutely sure of the size of our herring resource. Nor have we been convinced there has been a serious decline in the resource. Still our department moved, two years ago, to limit the tonnage of our herring fishing fleet and, more recently, to limit the capacity of new plants being built to process herring.

Mr. Crouse: Since there are a large number of herring seiners presently tied up in Atlantic Canada, which indicates there are no herring to be caught, is the minister giving any consideration to limiting the processing of the fish caught to processing only for human food inasmuch as continuation of processing for fishmeal may decimate the stocks still further?

Mr. Davis: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The policy has been to shift as much as possible of the catch to herring for food purposes since this produces the highest income for fishermen. I must also point out that, while some vessels are being tied up as the hon. member suggests, we are in our second highest producing year in history.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I suggest to hon. members that we should try in the last four minutes of the question period to have shorter questions, shorter answers and fewer supplementaries. The hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys.

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POST OFFICE

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON SALARY INCREASE FOR POSTMASTERS

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the hon. and gentlemanly Postmaster General. Some weeks ago I raised the question of the existing anomaly whereby assistant postmasters in staff post offices were receiving a higher salary than the postmasters who have the major responsibility. At that time the hon. gentleman stated that a new contract was being negotiated and he felt that a settlement was imminent. I wonder whether the hon. gentleman can give us either a progress report or a final report on this very important subject?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I have yet to receive a final report on the matter, but I

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Inquiries of the Ministry

shall try to give an answer in this regard as early as possible next week.

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[English]

AIRPORTS

TORONTO—STUDY OF POSSIBLE WATERFRONT FACILITY

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister tell the House to what extent the federal government is participating in studies of the need for a waterfront airport in Toronto, and is a particular study being made of the problems of servicing such an airport?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we have no current plans—I have made this statement in the House on several previous occasions—for a waterfront airport in Toronto. This is not included in any of the planning we have at the present time. I made this statement a year or more ago and have repeated it several times since.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCES OF PROGRAM TO PROVIDE TREATMENT AND DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. In view of the intention of the government not to proceed with Bill C-192, the Young Offenders Act, at this session, and as one of the major criticisms is that there is a lack of diagnostic and treatment centres across the country, will the Solicitor General meet with his counterparts in the provinces to develop a program to solve the shortage of treatment and diagnostic centres?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the standing committee considered the whole matter and I should prefer straight off that hon. members agree on a report so that I can make the improvements to the bill which, as I said, we are prepared to improve.

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[English]

BROADCASTING

QUEBEC CABLEVISION LEGISLATION—FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPECTING GRANTING OF LICENCES

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the continuing reports from Quebec that the province intends to grant broadcasting licences, I wonder whether the Acting Prime Minister can tell us if it is still the policy of the federal government that the CRTC is the sole agency to grant broadcasting licences in Canada?