

Oral Questions

Hon. Member for Sault Ste. Marie, said on April 29, 1982, as reported at page 16751 of Hansard:

Are we to break our agreement with the U.S. on testing of the Cruise missile in Canada?

They have all said that there was an agreement. I ask the Prime Minister now is it possible for the Government of Canada to call this deal off? Is it possible to call off the deal and, as I said, thereby give hope to so many Canadians?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I can only repeat my previous answer to the Hon. Member. There has been no cabinet decision to test the Cruise. There has been a Cabinet decision to authorize the Secretary of State to negotiate a weapons system testing.

Miss Jewett: No.

Mr. Trudeau: The Hon. lady says no. She knows more about Cabinet decisions than I.

Miss Jewett: I believe MacGuigan.

Mr. Trudeau: Then, if she believes MacGuigan, we will wait until he enters the House and the hon. lady can ask him her question.

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FISHERIES

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET BRITISH COLUMBIA DELEGATION

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. He will be aware that there is a delegation of responsible fishermen from the West Coast representing the PTA and the Federation. They have been seeking a meeting with him and I hope that the Minister will be able to see them before they leave. They came here at their own expense.

One of the questions they want to ask him concerns the relationship between the Pearse Report, the buy-back program in the Pearse Report, and the restructuring and rationalization of the fleet as proposed in the Cruikshank Report. Is he prepared to make any comment in the House today on that particular aspect of the matter?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, I met with the Pacific Fishery Advisory Council, and all the different associations were present. They gave me their views and asked me for some time to study the whole implication of that Report before making their position known. I readily agreed to their offer.

My Deputy Minister met with them about two weeks ago. I will be in B.C. myself for a few days, beginning next Friday, hopefully to meet with the Advisory Council to get their views on that issue and other issues that are major topics in the Pearse Report. I will be there within a few days.

With respect to the Hon. Member's question about the delegation, I will certainly study that matter.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): The Minister will know that they have been seeking a meeting with him. They came at their own expense. He has already been in trouble in British Columbia and I am sure that he does not want to get into that sort of trouble again. It is much better that he meet the people who come to see him than having to go out to see them.

REQUEST THAT CANADA-UNITED STATES SALMON FISHERY AGREEMENT BE TABLED

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Perhaps the Minister would be prepared to make some comment on the bilateral agreement between Canada and the United States on the salmon fisheries question. Will he agree to have that particular agreement tabled and examined in the parliamentary committee?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I do not know to what incident the Hon. Member is referring. If he is referring to a specific incident, I should be grateful if he would let me know what his own position would have been, instead of making insinuations. As far as the salmon treaty with the United States is concerned, I am pleased to report that negotiators for our two countries have already initialled the agreement to be submitted to both governments some time during the next few months. At that time, the two governments will, of course, have to take a position on the matter. As far as Canada is concerned, I can inform the House that the initialled document seems to be fair to both parties, and I have already said as much to the United States Ambassador. I also hope this stage of the confirmation of the agreement will be submitted to Cabinet some time during the next few months.

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[English]

HOUSING

REPORT OF MINISTER'S ALLEGED STATEMENT ON RENTAL LEVELS

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for housing. Last week, in one of his musings, the Minister publicly suggested that rents should be based on 25 per cent to 30 per cent of gross income—income before taxes. The Minister can deny that he said it, but it was reported in the press.

Given the fact that 40 per cent of householders in the country are renters and that the average rent in Canada today is approximately 17 per cent to 18 per cent of gross income, this would mean a massive rent increase. More important, it would discriminate against low income families because the Minister mentioned nothing about shelter allowance. Was the