

*Oral Questions*

desperate financial situation has arisen in the West Coast fishery industry. In addition, he will also be aware that the failure to provide adequate consultation on matters that affect the livelihood of fishermen has led to very dramatic actions, such as the blockading of the Straits of Georgia, the occupation of Fisheries offices, and recent demonstrations in Nanaimo.

It would now appear that the Minister, instead of relying on effective consultations with fishermen and their representatives, is relying on departmental advice and internal policy papers to guide restructuring in the West Coast fishery industry. Will the Minister assure the House that one of his policy papers does not involve expropriation, without consultation, of the fishing vessels of fishermen on the West Coast? If he cannot give us that assurance, does he clearly understand the consequences of such an action?

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, I fail to understand the exact meaning of the Hon. Member's question. I think that the consensus among fishermen is that there should be a reduction of the fishing effort. At the moment we are studying, in consultation with all of the participants in the fishery industry, how that could be implemented.

## REQUEST THAT MINISTER TABLE POLICY PAPERS

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Madam Speaker, there is ample evidence that the Minister is not following the advice given by his ministerial advisory committee, and has opted to follow the guidance of the Department of Fisheries and the internal policy papers which have been put forward. Would the Minister acknowledge that failure to provide a timely government response to the Pearse Commission is creating chaos on the West Coast? Will the Minister table in the House any departmental policy papers he is using to restructure the West Coast fishery?

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, I think the Hon. Member should recount the facts exactly as they are. The Pearse report contained several suggestions relating to the licensing system and to the reduction of the fleet. The Minister's advisory council asked if it could focus on the matter itself before the Department takes any action, and I have accepted this. Now of course is the time to come to a conclusion. However, consultations will continue with all participants.

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## TRADE

## U.S. TRADE COMMISSION RULING ON CANADIAN POTATO EXPORTS—COSTS OF HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

**Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. The recent ruling made by the United States International Trade Commission regarding the anti-dumping investigation concerning Canadian

potatoes was great news for the maritime potato producers. However, this investigation took a long time and cost a lot of money. This substantial bill is being carried by the Canadian Horticultural Council. I ask the Minister what assistance the Government will be giving to the council to cover the costs incurred in this matter.

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member is fully aware of the fact that a lot of our officials were involved in advising those people on what action they should take, and that involved a lot of person-years. I am sure he is also aware that we were also very happy about the decision that was made by the United States commission. The ruling was three to nothing in favour of the Canadian representation.

The Canadian Horticultural Association has made the representation to me that the bill amounts to over \$200,000. However, the Hon. Member is also aware that the matter has not been completed. If that bill were to be paid through the federal Government, it would be a form of subsidization to that industry. That is one of the reasons, of which the Hon. Member is fully aware, why we did not become involved in the matter in the first place. We made all of our material and information available to the Council for it to use before the commission, and we even made some of the Canadian agricultural people, as well as people from other Departments, available to it in preparing for the case, which was successful.

## REQUEST THAT MINISTER ASSIST COUNCIL

**Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque):** Madam Speaker, yesterday the Minister's colleague, the Minister of State for International Trade, started to pay tribute to the Horticultural Council of Canada. The Horticultural Council needs more than lip service. It needs hard dollars as well as tributes. Is the Minister of Agriculture willing to make some money available to the Horticultural Council after the matter has been concluded?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member knows full well that there is a month in which to appeal this case. I have had dealings with the Canadian Horticultural Council, and I am sure he is aware of those dealings. I am also sure he is aware that, a year ago, the Canadian Horticultural Council moved a motion complimenting the Minister of Agriculture and this Government for making a great contribution to the horticultural production industry in Canada.

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## TOURISM

## TAX ON CANADIAN ADVERTISING LITERATURE—PROPOSED UNITED STATES LEGISLATION

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism. I would like to ask him if he is aware of Bill No. 4074 which has been introduced in the United States House of