

*Oral Questions*

that no decision has been taken on that point as of now, but I would certainly take the interests of the Canadian farmers into account before reaching a decision. I would take into account whether sanctions of that kind would have any effect on the Polish Government before I would adopt the rather simplistic proposals made by the Hon. Member, whose foreign policy in his new post as critic of external affairs is as turbulent and explosive as were his unsuccessful financial policies.

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**FISHERIES****PEARSE COMMISSION REPORT—REQUEST FOR REFERRAL TO STANDING COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Tom Siddon (Richmond-South Delta):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The Minister knows that British Columbia has been hit harder by unemployment than any other Province west of the Ottawa River and that the resulting economic hardship is particularly serious in the West Coast fishing industry. In his final report to the Government, Commissioner Dr. Peter Pearse stated that his findings point inescapably to "deficiencies of federal government policy", and noted that "the cost of this disarray has been staggering". Dr. Pearse's report contained a host of innovative recommendations which he says are essential if the B.C. fishing industry is to be restored to good health. Will the Minister agree to refer Dr. Pearse's report immediately to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry so that Parliament may take decisive action on behalf of West Coast fishermen?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, I have had an opportunity to meet the commissioner, and Dr. Pearse and I had a long conversation. I intend to visit the west coast shortly to meet industry representatives and fishermen to discuss the recommendations and how they have been received. I hope that in a few months, in fact as soon as possible, I will be in a position to make my own recommendations to cabinet, and the government will then make its decisions.

However, Madam Speaker, I do not want to sit down before taking this first opportunity I have had to say a few words in praise of my predecessor, who brought about the extension of the 200-mile zone, which I feel is one of the Canadian government's greatest diplomatic achievements since the Second World War, and furthermore, if we look at the statistics for exports on the west coast since 1977, we see that remarkable progress has been made, thanks to my predecessor.

[English]

**Mr. Siddon:** In other words, Madam Speaker, the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry is not to have any opportunity to deliberate upon and make recommendations arising out of this report. I say, for shame!

**BOYCOTT OF CANADIAN FISH PRODUCTS**

**Mr. Tom Siddon (Richmond-South Delta):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question to the same Minister deals with another factor which is jeopardizing the jobs of West Coast fishermen in the planned boycott against Canadian fish products in British and European markets. The Minister knows that this boycott is being promoted and supported by Canadian groups which do not seem to concern themselves with the economic plight of Canadian fishermen or their families. What steps has the Minister taken to prevent this boycott which is already damaging our international markets for Canadian fish?

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, on the first point raised by the Hon. Member, I will tell him that it is not my custom to give instructions to parliamentary committees. If the Parliamentarians on all sides want to discuss an issue, this is their responsibility. I will not be giving them instructions.

● (1500)

With respect to the second question, the question of marketing, that will be among the priorities that I have set for myself during my tenure as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. All that I hope is that I will see some consensus between the different players in that regard, and I expect the support of the Hon. Member.

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[Translation]

**THE CONSTITUTION****GOVERNMENT HELP FOR MINORITIES INVOLVED IN COURT ACTIONS**

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State and it concerns federal assistance granted to minority groups in the case of appeals to the courts. We all know that since February 1978, the federal cabinet has been authorizing financial support for cases challenging provincial legislation as it concerns Sections 93 and 133 of the British North America Act. Since the Constitution Act, 1982 was passed, educational rights for members of official language minority groups have been governed by Section 23 of the Charter of Rights. Considering these facts, can the minister inform the House whether the government is prepared to expand its financial support so as to cover Section 23 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, in addition to Sections 93 and 133 of the British North America Act, in the case of appeals to the courts?

**Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State of Canada):** Madam Speaker, I wish to thank the member for Ottawa-Vanier for his question. I agree that this is one of the priorities the Department of the Secretary of State should consider. I have asked the people concerned to assess as soon as possible the