

Supply

creating confrontation. That has been the legacy of the hon. gentleman. There is no co-operation in the industry. When the hon. member was minister he set one group against another. He said it all when he said this: "I suspect at some point he will not be able to speak comfortably for both."

The day that I cannot speak comfortably for both segments of this industry, both of which are vitally important to the economy of the Atlantic provinces and, indeed, the west coast, then I cease to operate responsibly as Minister of Fisheries of Canada. That was the mistake the hon. gentleman made. He was merely the spokesman for one segment. That is why we have problems.

Mr. LeBlanc: I do not apologize for it one bit.

Mr. McGrath: That is why we have the problems we have today. The hon. gentleman from New Brunswick speaks about patronage. He did not identify where the patronage was. The only patronage that has caused me any trouble was when the hon. gentleman opposite was Minister of Fisheries and he yielded to pressure put on him by his colleague, the then deputy prime minister. He issued crab fish licences in Cape Breton which caused no end of trouble. Eleven licences were recommended by the committee, and the hon. gentleman yielded to the pressure of the then government house leader and issued five licences purely on the basis that the applicants were prominent supporters of the Liberal party. That kind of patronage has to end. The hon. gentleman knows what I am talking about. It has been around for the last six months. If he does not know what I am talking about he has failed to follow the ombudsman's program on CBC. It has aired this problem twice.

Mr. LeBlanc: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. If the minister is going to make a retroactive charge based on one of the most ill-informed programs that I have seen on television in a long time, I hope he will produce the evidence.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Chairman, I can produce the evidence by putting the names of the fisherman on the record. However, I do not think it will serve any useful purpose to do that. Licences were issued as a result of political pressure, and that really surprised me. I can assure the hon. gentleman, and my friend from New Brunswick who made the charge of patronage, that there has been no patronage since I became Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. I can assure him that there will be no licences issued as long as I am Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on the basis of political pressure or on the basis of the political persuasion of the applicant for the licence. I think that is a reprehensible practice. It tends to undermine the management of the fishery. It is difficult enough—

An hon. Member: Does the Premier of P.E.I. agree with that?

Mr. McGrath: Perhaps the hon. gentleman will tell me what is he talking about, when he asks if the Premier of P.E.I. agrees?

[Mr. McGrath.]

Mr. LeBlanc: Mr. Chairman, in answer to the minister's question—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Ethier): Order, please—

Mr. LeBlanc: —when he ruled in favour of one fisherman they thought it was on the basis of representation from the Premier of P.E.I., who is a Tory premier.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I am sure that both hon. gentlemen will be able to continue when the committee reconvenes on Monday. It now being four o'clock p.m., it is my duty to rise and report progress.

Progress reported.

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● (1600)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Breau: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the government House leader the business of the House for Monday.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the government to call as the first order of government business the redistribution reference about which I spoke. I hope that will not take very long. This will be followed by Bill C-10, which is without amendment from the committee, for third reading. We will then again take up the business of this bill which we were dealing with this afternoon.

Mr. Breau: Will the minister say whether we will follow the same priority list that was talked about previously? Will we have here the minister of fisheries or the minister for DREE?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the question the hon. member asks is quite relevant. I indicated there would be ministers available yesterday, ministers available today, and ministers will be available on Monday, if we get to the bill, for as long as it is considered necessary. There have been discussions between the opposition House leader and myself with regard to curtailing the debate. I asked how long we would be.

Ministers are busy. They have to spend some time in their departments and at meetings. I want the House to understand that from time to time it may be necessary for a parliamentary secretary to be here. The parliamentary secretary will be prepared to answer questions. The purpose of this process is to get questions from members of the House of Commons and to do our best to answer them.

I have undertaken with my friends and have made arrangements, after discussions, to have ministers available, subject to those unavoidable things that ministers may have in their lives.

I ask for the courtesy of the House, given that availability and the fact that officials are also waiting to answer questions. Speeches can be made at any time. We are anxious to answer questions.