

a few weeks to see if they will.

JAMES WALKER (ABC News): A follow-up question, if I may, about the fisheries matter.

How long will you give the Reagan administration to come up with a scallop management program? And two: Sir, in talking with some of your scallopers from Lunenburg, they would like to see the federal government, in absence of the Fisheries Treaty, remove the scallop restriction in order to even the odds in terms of American fishermen.

A. Well, if you knew our Minister of Fisheries, Mr. LeBlanc, you would be gambling that he won't wait very long to remove those restrictions. How long is very long, I don't know; but, as I said yesterday at the press conference, we are gambling that our scallop fishermen are every bit as good and probably better than the New England ones. / if we start fishing in those contested areas over Georges Banks, scallops won't last as long, hopefully, as even my government would last.

So, it is urgent. But we have waited for what, four years, five years now. I am saying that we are certainly prepared to wait a little while until the new administration catches its breath. But you are quite right, and the Lunenburg fisherman is taking a perfectly realistic idea. Why should Canadians, if the stock is going to be depleted and made extinct courtesy of the American fishermen, why shouldn't we grab as much as we can while there is still some around?

I am really talking to the American people and some of the Senators more than I am taking to President Reagan,