

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

of the National Indian Brotherhood on Thursday. The necessary announcements will be made in due course.

[*English*]

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, would it be reasonable to conclude from the minister's remarks that this rejection of the proposition put forward by the National Indian Brotherhood is simply another way of saying that the government is going to impose its policy regardless of the feelings of these people?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I suggest to the hon. member—

[*English*]

That the question as asked is argumentative.

**Mr. Chrétien:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite important to let the people know we are not imposing anything of that kind. I will not let go insinuations like the hon. member put forward, after he tried last month to get the paternity of the policy—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Perhaps I could comment in respect of the point of order raised.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not think that would be in order. The hon. member might perhaps have risen on a question of privilege, but I would have to rule that there is neither a question of privilege nor a point of order. I do not think it would be in order to comment. The hon. member may have a supplementary question later but for the moment I will recognize the hon. member for Churchill who has a question.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** I have a point of order, Mr. Speaker, and that is what I was trying to draw your attention to. It is obvious from the apoplectic reply of the minister that we have drawn blood.

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, can the minister assure the house that in appointing the commissioner consideration will be given to appointing a person of Indian ancestry?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, we will certainly appoint the most competent man we can find, and if he is an Indian, we will be most happy.

[*English*]

**FISHERIES****COHOE SALMON—BANNING OF OPERATION IN STRAIT OF GEORGIA**

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry with respect to the restrictions placed upon commercial salmon fishing in British Columbia. The notice sent to the fishermen by the minister's department, dated July 9, reads in part as follows:

The foregoing action is being taken in order to provide for a more equitable distribution between the sport and commercial fisheries of stocks of salmon available for capture in the Strait of Georgia area.

Is that the reason for the restriction being placed upon commercial fishermen, rather than the reason the minister previously gave the house, namely, that there is a shortage of available salmon stocks?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** There is a shortage, Mr. Speaker. The run of coho, salmon, our best sports fish, is the lowest in years; therefore, there is concern about supply. There are on the waters of the west coast at any one time, roughly 3,000 anglers and 200 commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen's take however has amounted to 90 per cent of the total and therefore a more equitable distribution of the catch appears to me to be in order.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Are sports fishermen being required to secure licences, as are commercial fishermen, and is the minister's department imposing a daily limit on the number of fish a sports fisherman may catch?

**Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member well knows, no licence is required by sports fishermen on the west coast. Sports fishing is one of the few things that are free in our part of the world at the present time. On the other hand, commercial fishermen are required to have licences, as they sell their fish to earn a living.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A further supplementary question,