

Will the minister tell us why it is that he has refused to continue the comprehensive long-term planning and development of a national fisheries policy for Canada which was initiated by his predecessor, which he has abandoned, and which the Fisheries Council of Canada has scorned because he reneges on that very important initiative?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, taking the last point first, in fact I did not discontinue the work. A draft report is on my desk now and I hope that the good work started by my predecessor, which was an update of the document published in 1975, will in fact be useful information, which is obviously what the hon. member needs.

As to the question of maximum return, the hon. member may not have heard that the great push of the department, the industry, fishermen and processors, in the last months and the months to come would be to enhance the quality of Canadian fish in order to ensure consistent quality in the markets that we wish to penetrate. This work is going ahead very positively.

As for the question of the politicizing of the fisheries policy I might say that if tilting in favour of the fishermen who earn a living from the fishery is politicizing the debate, then I have to plead guilty to having politicized the discussion.

**Mr. Siddon:** That is not quite the accusation of the Fisheries Council of Canada, Madam Speaker. They allege in fact that the tilt has been to the advantage of incumbent members that happen to represent Liberal fishing ridings.

The throne speech promised that licensing regulations would be changed so that Canadian fishermen could benefit more fully from the resources out to our 200-mile limit. That clear promise in the throne speech has been reneged upon. Will the minister tell us when he is going to allow Canadians to benefit fully from our own resource, without licensing foreign trawlers to enter Canadian waters and harvest our resource, and when is he going to make some progress on resolving the long-standing situation with the United States on reaching an agreement on the shared use of those stocks which straddle the Canada-U.S. border?

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Madam Speaker, one of my colleagues suggested the hon. member fire his research bureau. It is a very positive suggestion. The fact is we have embarked on a difficult reorganization of the licensing program and, as hon. members on all sides of the House recognize, the goal is worthy but the way is difficult.

As for the question of Canada's role in the 200-mile zone, it is very clear from the Law of the Sea consensus that those species in which our fishermen and processors have no interest are allocated to foreign interests. As far as we are concerned, those fisheries which we are interested in are taken by the Canadian fleet. There may be a modest amount which respects treaties. We have, for example, a treaty with France, but surely the hon. member is not advocating that we do not live up to our responsibilities, having signed treaties.

### Oral Questions

#### INDUSTRY

##### WHITE FARM IMPLEMENTS TAKEOVER—QUERY RESPECTING GOVERNMENT AID

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** My question, Madam Speaker, is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, but in his absence I will address it to his parliamentary secretary.

The White farm implement industry in Brantford has been shut down since last August throwing 1,100 workers out of work. The parent company in the United States has apparently found a buyer, three groups of Canadian investors, one in Guelph, Ontario, one in Brantford, and one in Montreal. I would like to ask what response will the federal government give to this group of Canadian investors who are seeking a \$10 million loan from the federal government at a low interest rate in order to purchase this very viable farm implement industry and save it from going under permanently?

[Translation]

**Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses)):** Madam Speaker, if the hon. member had given me notice of this question, I would have been able to give him an answer immediately. I shall take note of it now and provide him with the details requested in the near future.

[English]

**Mr. Blackburn:** I have a supplementary, Madam Speaker. This apparently has been in the press for at least a day, and I am surprised the parliamentary secretary was not aware of it. The same group of Canadian investors has approached the government of Ontario for a \$5 million loan, and in view of the fact the federal government came to the rescue of an American multinational, Chrysler, with respect to its Canadian operations, and in view of the fact that the Ontario government has been approached, will the minister assure this House and the stockholders of White farm implements, and the 1,100 workers at this operation that produced the best North American combine yet invented, that the Canadian government will not see White go under and will do everything it can to help the Canadian investors buy out that company so that it will be back on the tracks in a matter of a few weeks?

● (1440)

[Translation]

**Mr. Lapointe (Charlevoix):** Madam Speaker, I am happy to see that some members have enough leisure time to spend their day reading the newspapers. I would like to tell the hon. member that we are aware of the problems faced by this industry at the present time. I understand, but of course I would like to check on this, that the business development program has offered to that group of investors a loan guarantee of \$10 million.