

Deep Sea Fisheries Act

State whether he can respond to two questions which were taken as notice? One was taken as notice yesterday, and I understand he has an answer ready. I was not able to get the floor during the question period.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I understand there is unanimous agreement. I wonder whether the hon. member might be allowed to ask this one question for which I understand a reply has been prepared.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Secretary of State would like me to repeat the question. It was in connection with the phase-out of CBC stations on the east coast of Canada.

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I inquired and the first answer I received was that there was no such intention.

• (3:10 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

DEEP SEA FISHERIES ACT

PROVISION FOR REPEAL

On the order: Government Orders.

Report stage of Bill C-133, An act to repeal the Deep Sea Fisheries Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry—the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan) on a point of order.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) if he and the House leader would be in agreement to having Government Order No. 56 called. This is one of the fisheries bills which I understand is to be considered by the House. I can assure the House leader that we are very anxious to get this piece of legislation through the House today.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I think we should stick to the business as announced, Mr. Speaker.

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-133, to repeal the Deep Sea Fisheries Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry) moved that Bill C-133, to repeal the Deep Sea Fisheries Act, as reported (without amendment), from the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Davis moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse) rising on a point of order?

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): No, Mr. Speaker. I am rising to speak on this measure, unless the minister wishes to make a statement first.

Mr. Davis: No, Mr. Speaker. We covered this matter thoroughly in the committee. If other members have anything to say on the matter, I would prefer to hear them first.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, I had hoped the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) would give a further explanation relative to Bill C-133, to repeal the deep Sea Fisheries Act. Since he has declined to do so at this time, and since this measure affects 10,754 east coast fishermen, there are a few comments I should like to make on third reading.

Every action of this government, in view of its wasteful and extravagant policies, is open to question. I believe the true purpose of this bill, despite the harmless-sounding words in the explanatory note, is to convert to the government's private purposes trust funds that were set up for the use and benefit of the deep sea fishermen of the Maritime provinces and Quebec.

The history preceding the establishment of this trust fund goes back at least to the war of 1812. It is a history of plundering by United States fishermen of the deep sea fisheries of the Maritime provinces, Newfoundland and Quebec. It is also a history of their excursions into the waters of the provinces and their so-called right to land, to dry and to cure their catch and come into the ports of those provinces for bait and supplies. Blood was spilled by maritimers, Quebeckers and Newfoundlanders in those days, in defence of their sea resources. These encounters provide some of the colourful background to the history of Atlantic Canada. So much blood was spilled that the disputing parties used diplomacy to settle the issue, a course which I recommend to the government in trying to settle some of the serious international problems which face us at present.