

Oral Questions

drift-netting. How can he justify this latest sell-out of Canadian resources and jobs?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, some day the Hon. Member will learn that he devalues the currency if he describes every element as a sell-out.

He will also know that the question of drift-net fishing is a very serious problem with which consecutive Canadian Governments have been seeking to deal for some time. Part of the difficulty is that the fishing occurs beyond the normal jurisdiction of Canada.

We have been looking for ways in which we can put in place step by step practical measures that will allow us to protect the Canadian fisheries more effectively. There has been a very important step adopted by the Government of Canada in co-operation with the Government of Japan, whereby the Japanese have agreed now to let Canadian observers be present on Japanese vessels. That will help us both reduce the level of fishing and also gain more precise information.

We recognize that there are problems that continue with regard to fishermen coming from Taiwan, from Korea and from other countries. We are hoping to expand the initiative we have just taken to include fishermen and vessels of those countries.

Mr. Simmons: Giving Newfoundland fish to France or West Coast fish to Japan is a sell-out. He may not like the word. I could use the term Newfoundland fishermen are using, but it is not parliamentary.

MORATORIUM ON DRIFT-NET FISHING

Hon. Roger E. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister. Why did Canada not demand a drift-net moratorium instead of giving extra allocation, extra space to the Japanese? Why doesn't the Government, for a change, stick up for Canadian fishermen instead of selling out to foreigners all the time?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to draw the attention of the House or the Hon. Member back to some of the difficulties that arose because of fisheries' actions that were taken by Liberal Governments, in one of which he was briefly a Minister of the Cabinet.

I am quite prepared to deal with the steps we have taken. We have negotiated very successfully with France

a resolution to a problem that was difficult in Canada and difficult in France. We are now in a position where we may be able to get agreement on fishing zones and their boundaries. That is very important. The Hon. Member understands that.

With regard to the drift-net problem, another step we are taking that we hope will have some effect is that we have been in touch with the Governments of Thailand and Singapore, and we will be touch with other countries, to urge those Governments to discourage their fish processing industries from dealing with the products of drift-net fishing by Japan, by Korea, by Taiwan.

This is a matter that will not be shouted down. There must be step by step progress. We made some progress in the decisions that were taken with Japan in the last few days. We intend to continue to approach this problem seriously, with an eye to protecting the interests of the Canadian fishing industry.

* * *

DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

ADDITION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES TO FUELS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. There is a report in the press this morning that hazardous chemical wastes are being mixed with fuel oils and shipped by tanker across the Canada-U.S. border, and that this process has been going on for some four years. As all Canadians know, the health risks attendant to this kind of activity are immense for Canadians. Will the Solicitor General tell the House how much information the Government has? Has there been a special inquiry involving federal authorities into this kind of activity? When can we expect that activity to stop?

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the allegations published today in *The Globe and Mail* concern practices which, if they are established, constitute gross contempt of the law and total disregard for public health.

We are communicating right now with all Departments involved, because there are many federal laws concerned with those alleged practices. A few moments ago I spoke to my colleague, Minister Bradley of Ontario, who will be in a position to gather more facts and lay charges if the investigation results in that decision.