

## Oral Questions

## FISHERIES

## EAST COAST SALMON FISHING BAN—PROVISION OF APPEAL PROCEDURE RESPECTING COMPENSATION TO FISHERMEN

**Mr. G. A. Percy Smith (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and it relates to the ban on salmon fishing on the east coast of Canada. Having in mind the widespread concern expressed by salmon fishermen over the amount of the final payment in respect of compensation for loss of income, will the minister consider immediately an appeal procedure for the fishermen who feel they were treated unfairly by his department?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries):** The answer, of course, Mr. Speaker, is yes. I will personally take an interest in any appeal under this unique program. If the hon. member knows of individual cases where I can be of assistance I shall be glad to review them personally.

**Mr. Tom Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** Since there is evidently an appeal procedure, will the minister show some interest in the fisheries, back up the promises which were made and investigate from an Ottawa standpoint this whole sorry mess?

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

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## NORTHERN AFFAIRS

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—MAINTENANCE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR INDIANS ON CLEARING OF RIGHT OF WAY

**Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the high unemployment in the Northwest Territories and in view of the concern felt by a number of people who were working on the Hire North project—the clearing of a right of way in the Northwest Territories—that they will be laid off, would the minister be willing to make a statement at this time to alleviate their anxiety?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, following representations we received, work resumed this morning on the work site and all the Indians who were working on this project and who report for duty in the coming days will be hired and we hope to start a new project that will be carried on later during the year.

[English]

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Could the minister give the House his assurance that the Mackenzie corridor, sometimes called highway or road, has not, in fact, been abandoned but will be a continuing project?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, we did not decide to stop the construction of the Mackenzie Highway, we are proceeding with it. But, as we should, we must take into account

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

both the interests of the Indians and those of ecology, and that is why we are proceeding at a speed that allows for the hiring of Indians and the protection of the environment.

[English]

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

## CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed from Friday, January 5, consideration of the motion of Mr. J. J. Blais for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

• (1450)

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, first of all may I say how pleased we are to see you in what has become to us your accustomed place, and to give you my renewed assurance of our co-operation and confidence in you in the discharge of your arduous duties and responsibilities.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** I wish also to extend my personal best wishes and, if I may, cordial welcome to the new members among us, approximately 60 of whom sit on this side of the House in this party. I think they have all sensed, as I have, that this may well be one of the most interesting and challenging parliaments in our history. I share with them a sense of deep responsibility, and the hope that what we do here during this parliament will add to the distinction of this honoured place as well as bring benefit to the people of Canada whose interests we serve and whose needs and aspirations we must represent.

Hon. members will be well aware of the steady and persistent encroachment upon the rights of parliament, a process that has accelerated in the immediate past. We now have the opportunity to arrest this process and begin the reclamation of the rights and responsibilities of the role of parliament, and I am confident that the majority of members will seize upon this opportunity.

I wish, of course, to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address in reply for their contributions to these proceedings. Both members were faithful to the high standards set by their many predecessors and both of them I listened to with great pleasure.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, bilingualism is a rather vital aspect of Canadian reality, as is the existence of a variety of cultures and geographic areas; there is no reason why English-speaking Canadians or Canadians of French origin, or any other ethnic origin cannot live and work in harmony and mutual respect. There is no reason why the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Ontario, cannot join efforts with