

Inquiries of the Ministry

any, is being made toward reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, the discussion is taking place at the official level. In other words, officials from the federal Department of Fisheries are involved on the Canadian side and officials from the Russian side are meeting with them here in Ottawa. The officer in charge of the Pacific operations of the Russian fishing fleet is here for the discussions. We have representatives from all segments of the industry on the west coast who are acting in an advisory capacity to our officials.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A further supplementary question. Are these discussions that are going on mainly between scientists and officials, or is the minister or any person closely associated with government policy sitting in on the discussions?

Mr. Davis: I am not personally sitting in on the meetings, but many people who are knowledgeable of the fishery in this country are involved in an advisory capacity and know, day by day, what progress the talks are making.

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister will want to correct the statement he made that everyone knowledgeable of the fishery is involved because everyone on the east coast of Canada has been left out of these negotiations.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is hardly a point of order.

CANADIAN POSITION AT LAST ICNAF
CONFERENCE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Fisheries what position Canada took at the last conference of the International Commission on the North Atlantic fisheries? May I also ask whether Canada is proposing to call another meeting of the commission?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, basically the position taken was this: that over-fishing should not occur, that fishing operations over our conti-

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

mental shelf area should be on a sustained yield basis, and that Canada's share should expand as the years went by.

Mr. McGrath: A further supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think we ought to pass on to another subject. I know how important this question is to hon. members, but there are many other members waiting for a chance to ask questions. We might return to this point if we have time toward the end of the question period.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REPORTED INTENTION OF SOVIET UNION TO
DIVERT RIVERS EMPTYING INTO
ARCTIC OCEAN

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether the report that the Soviet Union intends to divert three rivers emptying into the Arctic Ocean, thereby draining off some 50 per cent of the supply of fresh water to the Arctic seas, is a factual one? Is this of concern to Canada in respect of its potential effect upon the Arctic seas and perhaps upon our own climate?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think I must have listened to the same program as the Leader of the Opposition, and my curiosity was piqued too. I shall try to satisfy it.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, when the Secretary of State for External Affairs satisfies his curiosity, will he be good enough to make a report to the House to enlighten us also?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker. If there is anything useful I can convey to the House, I certainly shall.

LABOUR RELATIONS

EAST COAST FISHERMEN'S STRIKE—ROLE OF
DEPARTMENT IN EFFECTING SETTLEMENT

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. Will he inform the House whether his department has involved itself in any way in trying to bring to a conclusion the six months-old strike of deep sea trawl fishermen on the east coast?