

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

REPORT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE COMMITTEE IN ENGLISH ONLY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister, in the hope that he will deal with it.

I have here the English version of fascicule 8, dated October 17, of the proceedings of the committee on external affairs and national defence; however, we have not yet received the report of the first meeting in French.

Could the right hon. Prime Minister take the necessary steps to see to it that translators from English to French be hired on a full-time basis, and not part-time, as is now the case.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to discuss this matter with the minister responsible for translation. As the hon. member knows, the work load is much greater for those who translate from English to French than for those who translate from French to English. That is one of the reasons why there are delays.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

APPLICATION OF 12 MILE FISHERIES LIMIT TO ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the announcement that a major territorial battle is shaping up between Canadian vessels and French trawlers operating out of France's territorial islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, will the minister indicate what action the government is contemplating to resolve this jurisdictional dispute over fishing limits?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any battle that is shaping up, but we have had some discussions with the French authorities about the application of the straight base line theory, and these negotiations are continuing.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which I will direct to the Minister of Fisheries. When can we expect

[Mr. Speaker.]

the base lines to be drawn from headland to headland, defining our exclusive fishing zones off Nova Scotia and British Columbia, as announced by the minister outside the house in a speech in Boston last Thursday?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, legislation permitting Canada to draw straight base lines was passed in 1964. Some of these straight base lines have been drawn, and I hope that more will be drawn in the near future.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs regarding the straight base line question. May I ask the minister whether he would be prepared to appear before the fisheries committee to give a full explanation of the situation with respect to the conversations with other countries concerning these base lines?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I am always happy to appear before committees of the house on any subject where I can be useful. I would not think, however, that I would want to reveal all the confidential talks that I have had with representatives of other countries, any more than I should like them to reveal the talks they have had with us.

Mr. Frank Moores (Bonavista-Trinity-Conception): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Fisheries. Does the minister intend to implement a scheme of management of Canada's fishing resources over the continental shelf in accordance with his view, expressed recently at Boston, that every maritime nation should undertake such management?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that what he is now asking the minister to do is make a general statement of policy, which should normally be done by way of a statement on motions.

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister make such a statement to clear up the whole business, so we can have some clarification? Obviously some—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is asking a question to which the minister now wants to reply.