

*Oral Questions***FISHERIES****ATTACK ON FISHERY PATROL VESSELS IN NOVA SCOTIA—
REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF LOBSTER FISHING REGULATIONS**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The burning and sinking of a fisheries patrol vessel yesterday in Nova Scotia was the fourth in a series of protests by fishermen over the stringent enforcement of lobster trap regulations by federal fisheries inspectors. In view of this violent revolt against bureaucratic controls, will the Minister undertake a complete review of the laws concerning this fishery as established by order in council, in the hope of giving some relief to the fishermen from what they consider oppressive and insensitive rules?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I would ask for the solid and unanimous support of all interested Members in condemning in the most absolute terms the criminal actions that have been perpetrated yesterday against the officers of the Department.

It is my duty to be most sensitive to the representations of the fishermen. As the Hon. Member may know, we have made several changes that have been suggested by the law abiding fishermen, and those regulations have been suggested by the fishermen themselves. It is my information that over 95 per cent of them support them. That is why, when those vessels were damaged—one was damaged and the other burned and sunk yesterday—several fishermen spontaneously offered the Department their vessels so they could enforce the regulations because, if there is an over-exploitation of lobsters, it would take many years to rehabilitate the stocks. I am sure I have the support of all Members when I say to those people who committed those criminal acts that, to the contrary, instead of attracting the sympathy of the people, I will become as tough as possible in enforcing those regulations which are meant for the protection of the income of our law abiding fishermen.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crouse: I am sure the Minister will understand that no one condones illegal acts. But sometimes, in frustration, the fishermen, when they do not receive any consideration from the federal Department, do not always act wisely.

SEIZURE OF LOBSTER TRAPS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): I am sure the Minister is aware that the inspectors have been seizing, also illegally, the traps of fishermen that they have found in the ocean where the licences on those traps have been washed away by the storms.

In light of the obvious fact that present regulations covering these fishermen are not acceptable, will the Minister undertake to consult with his counterpart in Nova Scotia, as well as with representatives of the fishermen and the industry, in the hope of establishing what I would call sensible regulations covering Nova Scotia lobster fishermen?

Will he also tell the House the approximate number of lobster traps that have been seized illegally by his own inspectors and stored in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, since the opening of the season?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I would like to assure the Hon. Member that it is my duty, as the servant of the fishermen, to listen to their complaints and make proper adjustments whenever the regulations include unnecessary irritants. If the Hon. Member has any suggestion to make to me which could achieve the exact same objectives as those we have set since 1968 at the request of the fishermen, I would give it the highest consideration. But what should be understood is that, contrary to attracting my sympathy, those who have taken those violent actions will not inspire anything but total and absolute denunciation.

With respect to the number of traps that have been seized, I will not comment on the details of the RCMP investigation. It is their work, and they will take whatever proper action they see fit. It is not the responsibility of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to comment on that.

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HEALTH**PROPOSAL TO BAN CIGARETTE AND LIQUOR ADVERTISING
ASSOCIATED WITH SPORTS EVENTS**

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. She will have received an expression of concern from the Council of Sports Executive Directors. For years they and the Government have been encouraging a wider degree of support for sport through the private sector.

Is the Minister serious about banning liquor and tobacco commercials altogether, or does she propose to ban only those related to sports or activities of a recreational nature? I would like to have a response that I might be able to give to that executive council.

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I did not receive notice of that question and I am not in a position to answer. I do not have the information to answer the Hon. Member properly. I prefer to get back to him as soon as possible.

Mr. Reid (St. Catharines): I did not say that I gave her notice of the question. I indicated that the executive council had directed a communication to the Minister several weeks ago with respect to the proposed ban on tobacco and alcohol advertisements in commercials related to sports.

POSSIBLE FINANCIAL LOSS TO SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Madam Speaker, since we have encouraged this kind of private sector support, and there are millions of dollars involved if this proposed and published ban proceeds, will the Minister, with National Revenue