

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FISHERIES****INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF
STRAIGHT BASE LINES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and ask whether he would be able to tell the house his views and intentions with respect to the straight base lines under the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act, especially in so far as the west coast is concerned.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, in order to answer this question properly I would have to make a general statement on policy. The policy is certainly under review, and I as a new minister from the west coast am very concerned with the subject the hon. member has raised.

Mr. Howard: As a supplementary question may I then ask the minister whether he would take the time to make a statement on motions about this very important matter, particularly with reference to the quotations which were attributed to him in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* concerning his intention to depart from the present policy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

**PROTEST AGAINST WITHDRAWAL
OF SALT SUBSIDY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the urgent situation caused by the recent abolition of the salt rebate to Atlantic fishermen, what interim action is planned to avoid a serious and immediate hardship to our fishermen so affected?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): As the hon. member knows, the salt subsidy to the cod fishery on the east coast has been discontinued. Other programs of a broader nature are under consideration. They are being developed with regard to the income and production of that industry.

Mr. James McGrath (St. John's East): Could the minister tell the house why he chose to do away with the salt subsidy in the middle of the fishing season?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Olson.]

**LICENCES FOR VESSELS REPLACING THOSE
LOST AT SEA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Tom Goode (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Fisheries. The minister recently announced that no more licences would be granted to fishing vessels on the west coast. I have had urgent representations from fishermen who are concerned about the loss of their vessels at sea. What does the minister intend to do about vessels that are lost as a result of accidents beyond the control of the fishermen themselves?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder whether the hon. member's question is not hypothetical.

TRADE**PROHIBITION ON SALE OF CANADIAN TURBOT
IN U.S.**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. James McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Can the minister tell the house what action his department contemplates regarding the recent prohibition by the U.S. food and drug administration of the sale of Greenland halibut on the U.S. market and the disastrous consequences it has had on the Canadian east coast fisheries?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, as was mentioned by the Secretary of State for External Affairs last Friday, we made representations on this subject to the United States. I have been informed that the food and drug administration will hold hearings on this subject on October 2 in order to receive representations from all parties. We are in touch with the fishing industry of Newfoundland on this subject, and we are doing our best to bring their case before the U.S. authorities.

Mr. McGrath: Could the minister inform us what role his department will play when this appeal is heard in the United States?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think the supplementary question is in order.

[Later:]

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I wish to assure you of the urgency of this question which I direct to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Could the minister tell the house