

## FISHERIES

CLOSING OF WEST COAST SHRIMP GROUNDS—DISCUSSIONS  
WITH UNITED STATES ON EXCLUSION OF CANADIAN  
FISHERMEN

**Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. I understand that on Friday, June 17, or on Monday, June 20, the government of Canada by order in council closed the west coast shrimp grounds to United States fishermen, in retaliation for the unilateral closure of United States waters to Canadian trawlers. Has the minister entered into discussions with the commerce department of the United States government regarding the cutting off of Canadian fishermen in United States waters, and does the minister know when the United States Senate will consider the Canada-U.S. agreement covering fishing on the east and west coasts?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, the order to close the shrimp fishery applies both to Canadian and United States fishermen. In the case of Canadians, it was made in conformity with the representation they made us. They prefer to fish later in the season. We will now have some time to sort out the difficulties we have encountered with the United States in relation to their interpretation of the interim agreement, an interpretation with which we do not agree. The following two months will give us time to sort out the problem. I am afraid I do not remember the third point the hon. member raised.

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## TOURISM

REASON FOR DEFICIT—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO REVERSE  
TREND

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The minister is aware that the seasonally adjusted deficit on tourism trade increased to \$410 million in the first quarter of this year, a quarterly deficit greater than any annual deficit prior to 1975. Considering that the United States economy has recovered and that that country's bi-centennial celebrations have concluded, can the minister explain to the House what factors are causing the current alarming deterioration of our tourism trade position and, noting that his department has reduced the staff for its tourism program, can he say if his department is taking steps to reverse the trend to higher tourism trade deficits?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is an important problem. Of course, the legislation that the American government has passed, which imposes a limit on the number of conventions that can be held outside the United States and particularly on the amount of expenses allowed for income tax exemptions, has considerably affected our tourist industry in Canada. We

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have made representations to the Americans to that effect and we hope that changes will be made next fall. My department is working in cooperation with every provincial department of tourism so as to improve the situation here in Canada and I hope we will come up with some results. But again I have been told that the main problem is that too many Canadians take their holidays abroad rather than visiting our country.

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[English]

## CUSTOMS

EFFECT ON TOURIST TRADE OF ALLEGEDLY UNREASONABLE  
TAXING OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my supplementary question to the Minister of National Revenue? In view of the seriousness of our deficit position in tourism trade, can the minister explain to the House why her department's excise tax officers seem to have embarked upon a witch hunt against United States tourists, particularly with regard to the assessment of duties and taxes on American groceries purchased by United States citizens for use in Canada, on U.S. manufactured boats used by Americans in Canada and on U.S. registered automobiles leased by Americans for use in Canada? Will she ascertain from her colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, whether such punitive tax enforcement tactics are likely to assist our declining tourism trade?

[Translation]

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, the question is a bit strange, but I do not know what electors the hon. member represents. Customs duties are unpleasant for everyone because, in a sense, they represent an economic police. As I do not know the specific details of the cases to which the hon. member seems to be referring, I should like to know the details instead of generalities, after which I shall be pleased to look into the matter.

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[English]

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGATION OF CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY AGAINST  
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. No doubt he is aware that the Prime Minister yesterday, speaking on what he said was an important and serious question, namely, if there was some conspiracy against the administration of justice in connection with the break-in by officers of the federal force, said he would discuss it with the present Solicitor General. As a result of that discussion, has the Solicitor General a statement to make about what action is to follow with respect to these officers, apparently officers of the RCMP, and what on the