

Oral Questions

Therefore, Sir, I ask the Minister to fulfil his obligations under the Accord. Child welfare is a priority for Manitoba Indian people. Surely it ought to be a priority for the Minister and his Government as well.

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[Translation]

FREE TRADE**ALLEGED INTERFERENCE BY SOCIALIST LEADER IN QUEBEC'S AFFAIRS**

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Last weekend, Mr. Speaker, the socialist leader—spending the money he gets from the auto workers who have been enjoying free trade since 1965—came to tell Quebecers and Premier Robert Bourassa that free trade will do no good to the hydro power sector.

Contrary to the statement made by the socialist leader, the free trade agreement does not force Quebec to export its energy in times of shortages. Contrary to what he has been saying, Quebec Hydro and the Government of Quebec retain full control over their resources. Contrary to what he has been saying, hydro rates will be set by the law of supply and demand.

The socialist leader did not read the free trade agreement, he cannot see the difference between renewable and non-renewable energy, and he could not care less about the management skills of Quebec Hydro and Premier Bourassa.

Mr. Speaker, should you care to seek further information about this interference of the socialist leader in the affairs of Quebec, I would refer you to Alain Dubuc's article published in *La Presse* of Wednesday, October 28, 1987.

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[English]

FISHERIES**USE OF DRIFT-NETS ON PACIFIC COAST OPPOSED**

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, for years fishing groups, both sport and commercial, have joined with environmental groups, notably Greenpeace, demanding that the Canadian Government negotiate an end to the use of drift-nets in the international fishery. Canadian representatives have, in recent years, discussed this issue with their American and Japanese counterparts in the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission. Due to Canadian efforts the agenda at next month's meeting will include the topic of marine debris and the issue of drift-nets.

However, the Canadian Government has also sanctioned an experimental drift-net fishery which, in 1986, claimed 49 marine mammals, including two killer whales and five pilot

whales. Even after this destruction the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) approved another drift-net experiment in 1987. The death count this year is 90 marine mammals and 512 sea-birds.

How can the Minister be taken seriously when he is pressuring the international community to end this drift-net fishery and at the same time attempting to introduce the use of drift-nets on the Pacific coast? This hypocrisy and the use of drift-nets have to stop.

● (1420)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FISHERIES**CANADA-FRANCE DISPUTE—FRENCH PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Last spring we repeatedly warned the Prime Minister of Canada not to negotiate with France about the sovereign rights of Atlantic fishermen. We warned him that any negotiations on this issue by Canada would be seen by France as an act of weakness, and that is exactly what has happened.

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has announced that French fishermen will now illegally take at least 36,000 tonnes of fish in our waters next year and that French fishermen will operate, to use his words: "under the best possible security conditions".

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Will the Deputy Prime Minister admit that the weakness of the Prime Minister this spring led to this disgraceful situation? Will he tell us whether our Prime Minister has found out from Prime Minister Chirac of France just what the French Prime Minister meant when he said he would guarantee the security of the French fishing fleet in our waters?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, first, in connection with the hon. gentleman's question, Mr. Chirac said nothing about fishing in our waters, nor did his Minister of Fisheries. His statement was that they would fish for 36,000 tonnes of fish in the disputed zone of 3PS. The difficulty is that no one knows whose waters those disputed waters are, whether they are France's or Canada's.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Tobin: What a sell-out!

Mr. Crosbie: That question will only be known when an international tribunal adjudicates it.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition was in the Government in 1972 when the infamous treaty of 1972 was entered into,