

Immigration Act, 1976

that point I am in absolute agreement. I can hear the Hon. Member. Will the Hon. Member be reasonable for a moment?

I would hope that both Parties will have an opportunity, based on the conciliation commissioner's report which we expect in the not too distant future, to find a negotiated settlement. In the meantime it does no good whatsoever and no good purpose is being served, either for the union or for the public, for the New Democratic Party to suggest that under the threat of violence one must capitulate and say that there is no alternative. That is wrong, bad policy, and the New Democratic Party knows it.

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FISHERIESCANADA-FRANCE DISPUTE—NEGOTIATOR'S MEETING WITH
FRENCH PRIME MINISTER

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries following up on a question posed by a colleague from Newfoundland. Was there or was there not a private meeting between Maître Yves Fortier, our chief negotiator in the fisheries dispute, with the Prime Minister of France, Jacques Chirac?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I thought I answered that question when I responded to the Hon. Member's colleague.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Siddon: It is my understanding that Monsieur Fortier paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of France. It was an opportunity for lunch, as I understand it, and I don't know whatever general discussions but there was no element of those discussions which could be characterized as being secret. In fact, members of the delegation of all participating provinces and the industry who were present in Paris on Monday were fully advised as to the nature of that meeting.

NATURE OF DISCUSSION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be good enough to tell us what was discussed at that meeting if it was not the fishery? Why wasn't the rest of the delegation informed or invited? Why particularly was the delegation from Newfoundland not informed that there would be a private tête-à-tête between our chief negotiator and the Prime Minister of France?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition why he and his Party and colleagues to his left are constantly looking for some negative sinister motive in everything that is done.

I would tell you, Mr. Speaker, and assure this House that anything discussed among the negotiators and with the benefit of the provincial and industrial representatives was discussed for the benefit of the fishermen and the people of Newfoundland and Atlantic Canada.

Mr. Speaker: I regret that the following will be the last question. The Hon. Member for Scarborough West.

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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

ARMS GAP BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT NATIONS

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Among the good news in recent days has been the possibility of an agreement to remove short and medium-range missiles from Europe, but the flipside of that welcome announcement is the effect on NATO's capability to deter Warsaw Pact aggression.

Will the Minister advise the House what consideration NATO members are giving to closing the conventional arms gap between the Warsaw Pact and NATO?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member points out, a very significant agreement was reached, one that was welcomed by all of those with interests in Europe and who want to see a long-term agreement to promote peace.

However, left untouched were a number of important areas, such as conventional imbalances between East and West where the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact maintain an advantage of two or three to one at the present time in chemical weapons and a range of other areas. We are hopeful that progress can be made in these areas, in addition to being able to reach deep cuts in terms of strategic weapons, which will leave the world a safer place.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

IMMIGRATION ACT, 1976

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-55, an Act to amend the Immigration Act, 1976 and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof, as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee, and Motion No. 11 (Mr. Marchi, p. 9119), Motion No. 13 (Mr. Heap, p. 9105), and Motion No. 14 (Mr. Marchi, p. 9105).

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the co-operation of the House because it is my duty and obligation to make a final ruling on the groupings and admissibility of the various motions or, in