

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: What would happen if some unnamed nation should not be accorded these port privileges of restocking with bait and ice and food, because we are competing with them on foreign markets in the sale of fish? In order to give encouragement for the fishermen, this buying of bait and running it out to circumvent the law, I think they would find it was in the interest of the fishing industry to stop that practice. So far as ships coming in, I thought we would be consistent, and then saying we would like a ban on the export of bait from these ports this season, that would be the only way you could implement that.

Mr. STUART: If you have that as a hard and fast regulation, the time may come when you want to sell bait and then you have a regulation there to damn the whole thing. I think it should be left as it is. It would not be sold unless it was profitable to do so.

Mr. BALCOM: Is that not another business proposition?

Mr. STUART: Yes, it is a business proposition.

Mr. BALCOM: Were the regulations not changed last year regarding foreign vessels coming in to make purchases, to the extent that the Atlantic provinces were included in this reciprocal port privileges convention? I understood last year that the former Minister of Fisheries had written a letter to this effect, that these foreign vessels could come in to North Sydney or Halifax to make their purchases.

Mr. BATES: No. There was a situation in the mainland which was actually illegal under the Customs and Fisheries Protection Act. The vessels, apart from United States vessels, had no right to come in to the maritime ports. They had been doing it for a number of years, Mr. Chairman, when it was drawn to our attention. We did what we considered the right and proper thing to do: that was to start enforcing an Act of the department which had not been enforced previously, and we indicated to the maritime merchants that this would be enforced; in fact—if I may say this off the record, Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, this will be off the record.

Mr. BATES:

One reason for trying to have this Act passed at this session is to give the minister, if he so wishes, authority to allow these vessels into mainland ports as well as Newfoundland ports.

Mr. BALCOM: All of these boats would have to go away back to St. John's, Newfoundland, to get bait?

Mr. STICK: No, not that far; they could go to Port aux Basques.

Mr. BLACK: I would like some further information with respect to the committee which I understand is appointed and operating under the United Nations, affecting coastal waters indirectly, and affecting our fishing interests. Who represents Canada on that committee?

Mr. ERICHSEN-BROWN: Canada is not represented on the committee.

Mr. BLACK: Well, we are awaiting the report of that committee to decide on what action we will take.

Mr. ERICHSEN-BROWN: If I might explain, it is not technically a committee, it is a commission. It is known as the International Law Commission. It is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which was appointed when it was first organized to assist the General Assembly in discharging its function of encouraging the progressive development and codification of international law. It is a body comprised of 15 members. Canada is not one of the states which has a representative on the body. This commission makes annual reports, which are considered in the General Assembly.