

*Oral Questions***FISHERIES**

## CANADA-U.S. AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES AND BOUNDARIES

**Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries: it concerns the negotiations which will resume today on the bilateral agreement. The American negotiator, in a statement which was released, said he felt the earliest feasible resumption of reciprocal fishing would improve the prospects of reaching a long-term agreement, which is what they are attempting to do. The statement goes on to say that within the next couple of days it is expected that on the American side the interim agreement will be ratified. I ask the minister whether, in those circumstances, reciprocal fishing will be resumed.

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, we have made it clear that local arrangements would be simplified if the agreement were ratified by the United States Congress. My colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and I have also made it clear that these current negotiations are not intended to restore the suspended 1978 agreement, but are to look at a long-term arrangement and especially at mechanisms to arbitrate interpretations or disputes of the type that led to this suspension. If the American negotiators have some proposals to make, we will examine them very carefully. The negotiations are not for resumption of the 1978 agreement, but for long-term agreements.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, is the minister saying that continuation of the present status, where Canadian fishermen may not fish in American waters and American fishermen may not fish in Canadian waters, will assist in the conclusion of a long-term agreement?

**Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, I believe it might help people to reflect seriously on the need for a long-term and permanent agreement with mechanisms to arbitrate disputes.

## CONSIDERATION OF MINERAL RIGHTS IN FISHERIES' NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Fisheries. To what extent are both sides concerned over mineral rights slowing down reaching a settlement on this thorny problem?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I have no indication whatsoever that this is an issue in the present problem.

[Mr. Chrétien.]

**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

## CLOSING OF OXFORD HOUSE SCHOOL IN MANITOBA

**Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question was to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, but in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary. On June 9, the chief and council of the Oxford House band of Indians ordered the school on their reserve closed to its 370 students. This action was taken to prevent possible injury of students who travel by school bus over ungravelled roads which are in a deplorable and almost impassable condition. I ask the parliamentary secretary, what action has been taken over the past ten days to ensure that the roads will be repaired and the 370 students will be able to complete their term?

**Mr. Ross Milne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the House will remember that the hon. member raised this issue last Friday. Following his intervention, I asked the department for a report. I am informed that the road is not an issue. Last year, over \$50,000 was allocated for the improvement of the road, and it is in very good shape.

There is a secondary issue relating to a contractor who took substantial amounts of equipment into the reserve, which is in an isolated location—as the hon. member well knows—over ice and snow, and with the difficulty of removing it he has lobbied with the band for some \$750,000 for training within the reserve. We do not have this kind of money, and we do not intend to approve that kind of allocation when there is similar equipment owned by Indian people which could be used for this purpose if, indeed, there is a need. I think this matter should be concluded by an appeal from both sides of the House for the children to return to school.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Smith (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that \$50,000 was provided, but I ask the parliamentary secretary what the people are supposed to use to repair the roads. In Oxford House, the band has only shovels and wheelbarrows for road repair. Will the department look into this matter?

**Mr. Milne:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we will satisfy ourselves on that point. I was under the impression that the Indian band made representations for the \$50,000 so they could work on the roads themselves. This money was to purchase and haul gravel. I thought allocation of the \$50,000 was in keeping with their request.

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**IMMIGRATION**

## ALLEGED UNNECESSARY DELAYS CAUSED BY IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. A member of the Bermudian government complained to