

*Routine Proceedings*

the Prime Minister is focusing on the issue. He will know that Canadian fishermen have had enough on this one and they have given notice that they intend to confront those pirates, the Spanish and the Portuguese, out there on the high seas with the tacit blessing of the minister of fisheries.

I want to ask the Prime Minister this. Why is the government just standing by and allowing the fishermen to go out and fight their battle alone? Would he not agree that it would be much more productive and in line with his new-found support for this cause if he were to provide some Canadian ships that go out there and accompany the trawler protest? Or is this another case of letting others do the government's dirty work for it?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we are not engaging in any dirty work and we are not asking anybody to engage in any dirty work on behalf of Canada. We are a country that does not engage in dirty work nor do we encourage it.

We are a country that lives by international law and demands respect of international law by others, including the Europeans who are contributing to the destruction of an important national resource off the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador by their deliberate and wilful acts. We are in the process of persuading them of the self-delusion of which they are capable by their very acts and the ultimate destruction of this great resource which will harm them and harm everybody in Newfoundland and Labrador.

We are pursuing this. The minister of fisheries is pursuing this vigorously in a dozen different ways. Many of them lack the drama of dispatching the navy or military instruments out there. It lacks that drama, but it retains a great sense of reasonableness and force and effectiveness on behalf of the people of Canada.

We will only resolve this important question by deploying all of the resources of the government and the people of Canada in defence of the interests of Newfoundland and Labrador. However, this does not include, and never has, the dispatching of military force against our allies while they are operating outside of the 200-mile zone.

We believe that good sense will prevail and that the programs we have in force and the activity we are going

to engender will prevail on behalf of the fishermen and the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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**PRESENCE IN GALLERY**

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw to the attention of members the presence in the gallery of Mr. Stipe Mesic and Mrs. Gordana Turich, members of the Croatian Parliament.

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

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**PRIVILEGE****STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I initiated this question of privilege on January 22 of this year, which was the earliest opportunity that I could do so following receipt of correspondence from Mr. Douglas Rutherford, the associate deputy minister of justice.

The Table at that time suggested that it was appropriate first to seek the tabling of U.S. justice department correspondence by the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade.

On February 25 of this year, the chair, the Hon. John Bosley, wrote back advising that there was no direct reference to the letter in the minutes for the purpose of tabling. However, the contents of that letter were referred to on page 1325 of the October 29, 1991 committee hearing.

I believe I can demonstrate, Mr. Speaker, that there is a prima facie case of a senior public servant knowingly misleading a member of this House. This is a most serious contempt of Parliament and cannot go unchallenged.

The associate deputy minister of the litigation section, Mr. Douglas Rutherford, was a witness before the external affairs and international trade committee on October 29 where he gave evidence on the extradition of Leonard Peltier from Canada to the United States. Mr. Rutherford, following adjournment, advised me that he had in his possession the U.S. justice department response regarding the Peltier extradition matter that was referred to in a letter between Judge Heaney of the U.S. Court of Appeal and Senator Inouye from Hawaii. He produced a file and held the file to allow me to read the