

Oral Questions

Newfoundland which has closed some 70 fish plants around the province and left some 30,000 people out of work, and in view of the minister's comments to the hon. member for St. John's East regarding the role of the Canadian Saltfish Corporation in this dispute, I wonder if the minister can tell this House whether he is considering empowering the Canadian Saltfish Corporation to acquire additional vessels or boats to buy even more of the surplus fish which no doubt will be available in the days and perhaps weeks ahead during the course of the strike.

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, as I said earlier, the Canadian Saltfish Corporation by law must buy all the fish offered to it by fishermen. In fact, there are precedents in which the corporation has utilized foreign vessels and trawlers to act as receiving stations for fish made available to it by Canadian fishermen. Of course, I would be quite willing to look at this proposal, and I might indicate that I would look at it pretty favourably.

As to the other suggestion that we should allow sale over-the-side for other fish products besides cod, this suggestion has been made in a telegram to me by the head of the fishermen's organization. I have not yet indicated what would be my reaction because I want to ascertain all the facts before I make a decision of this importance. However, at the moment this is neither accepted nor rejected.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE OFF B.C. COAST**

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of the Environment my question is also addressed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. As I trust the minister is aware, between 1946 and 1965 quantities of radioactive waste were dumped off the British Columbia coast into the ocean by such institutions as the University of British Columbia and the Pacific Naval Laboratory of British Columbia. In light of the fact that roughly 47,000 barrels were dumped off San Francisco during the same period of time and the fact that over 10,000 of those barrels have now burst and dumped their contents into the environment, would the minister tell this House what is the monitoring process, what responsible agencies are looking into Canadian radioactive ocean dumping and what have been the results of the monitoring of the site off British Columbia since 1965?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I do not know if I could give details to the hon. member from memory, but certainly this Parliament legislated in the area of ocean dumping some years ago. Permits must be obtained before dumping takes place, and I might say that the recent judgment—I believe it was only last Friday—of the Supreme Court of Canada sustaining part of the Fisheries Act which was being challenged also, in my view, gives the Department of Fisheries and Oceans greater leverage

in imposing good behaviour on those who would dump or throw into the water substances which hurt fish.

Mr. Fulton: Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is essentially the same as my first question. I wonder if the minister could tell the House and the people of British Columbia what the monitoring process is and has been with regard to the radioactive waste which was dumped into the ocean between 1946 and 1965, and whether he would confirm that there is still radioactive waste being held in the city of Vancouver.

Mr. LeBlanc: Madam Speaker, I will undertake to look into this matter and answer the hon. member, possibly tomorrow.

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AIR CANADA**REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF SEAT SALE DESTINATIONS**

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In September of this year Air Canada again will embark on a series of seat sales whereby travellers can fly at greatly reduced prices. This is, of course, good for the airline, and it is good for travellers as well. However, as some of the destinations are foreign cities, I wonder how much good these seat sales are for the Canadian travel industry.

In order for the government to promote tourism and travel in Canada will the minister agree that a review of the destinations for seat sales would be useful?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I do not know what my hon. friend has in mind to demonstrate by this question. Is he looking for ways of preventing foreign carriers from coming to Canada? Is that what he is trying to prevent?

Mr. Fretz: No.

Mr. Pepin: Would he then kindly repeat the question and make the point?

● (1500)

Mr. Fretz: Madam Speaker, I will again pose the question to him. Air Canada is to have a seat sale starting in September. As I have said, this is good for the airline and good for travellers. However, some of the destinations are to foreign ports. How good is this for the tourism industry in Canada? In order for the government to promote tourism and travel in Canada, which we should be doing, would the minister agree that a review of these seat sale destinations would be useful?

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, I can only answer by expressing a number of generalities. The first point obviously is that we want Canadians to travel in Canada, but when my hon. friend tells me that there are special sales for Canadians to go abroad, I could say to him that there are similar opportunities for other people from abroad to come to Canada. This freedom