

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

STEPS TO CONTROL CIRCULATION OF
OBSCENE LITERATURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Postmaster General whether he has anything further to report to the house regarding his efforts to control the circulation of obscene literature through the mails.

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, as of six o'clock last night the department had intercepted 126 letters ordering this filth from Denmark. I am surprised that so many Canadians are interested in it. We are returning each of the 126 letters with a polite note from the department indicating that the mails cannot be used for such a purpose.

FISHERIES

INQUIRY AS TO DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Moores (Bonavista-Trinity-Conception): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. Last Wednesday the minister advised this house that deficiency payments to the east coast fishing industry would terminate at the end of October. Is it correct that without forewarning the east coast industry was informed on Friday that this important scheme had terminated at the end of September?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): That is true, and the cause is to be found in the remarkable increase in the production of fish on the east coast. I have just been informed that the overall fish production is up more than 20 per cent this year.

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, has the minister any plan to help the Canadian commercial fisheries make a profit for the Canadian community as a whole, or does he now consider this to be a burden on the Canadian community in light of a speech he made in Boston I believe on Friday?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that the question as asked is much too general in nature. Perhaps it could be placed on the order paper.

Mr. Carter: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, this is a very important matter to the fisheries of Newfoundland. A great deal of concern has been expressed by fishermen in

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that area over a speech made by the minister in Boston on Friday.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the point of order raised by the hon. member but, as he knows, there is a standing order which provides for a discussion of matters which in the opinion of members ought to be discussed the same day. The hon. member does have an opportunity to discuss this matter later on today.

Mr. Carter: I should like to debate the matter at ten o'clock.

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, there are several hundred thousand people in the Atlantic region who are dependent on fisheries, and in Newfoundland there are 25,000 people who are in dire straits.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has stated his point of order. The hon. member should first resume his seat. I should remind the hon. member that, if hon. members do not accept a ruling from the Chair that a question is not urgent and feel that the matter ought to be discussed, the hon. member has an opportunity to discuss the question the very same day during the adjournment proceedings. This was the only suggestion that was made to the hon. member for St. John's West, and he has accepted that suggestion.

Mr. Lundrigan: May I just say on the point of order that one of the reasons for the obvious antagonism which exists, and which has perhaps resulted in an element of uncertainty, is that we are not able to get satisfactory answers to our questions. There has been a controversy created outside this house as to certain policies in relation to fisheries.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This, of course, is a point of debate and I fail to see how it can be raised as a point of order.

INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF FRESH
WATER FISH MARKETING BOARD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact we were told some months ago that the government of Canada would try to conclude negotiations with the provinces to establish a fresh water fish marketing board by mid-October, will the Minister of Fisheries indicate whether an agreement has been reached on this matter with the governments of the three prairie provinces?