

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Speaker:** It is rhetorical.

[Later:]

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I desire to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Was the President of the Privy Council outlining national defence policy in a recent speech calling for the withdrawal of Canadian troops from Europe under our present NATO and NORAD commitments?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I indicated to the house that generally speaking the procedure to be followed by hon. members asking questions as to whether statements made outside the house represent the policy of the government is to direct them to the Prime Minister or the Acting Prime Minister.

**Mr. Winch:** Then may I amend my question, Mr. Speaker, by addressing it to the Acting Prime Minister. Was the President of the Privy Council outlining government policy in a recent speech calling for the withdrawal of Canadian forces from Europe under our present NATO and NORAD commitments?

**Hon. Robert Winters (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that question was answered a moment ago by the Minister of National Defence.

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Privy Council. Is it the intention of the government to withdraw Canadian forces from Europe under NATO and NORAD commitments?

**COAL**

ALBERTA—NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING  
FREIGHT RATES ON SHIPMENTS  
TO JAPAN

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport who has been promising a statement concerning the negotiations which are of interest to the coal operators of western Canada. Can he tell the house how the negotiations are progressing in respect of coal exports to Japan, and whether those contracts will be filled?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport is still very promising and so are the negotiations, but they have not been concluded.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

**FISHERIES**

NOVA SCOTIA—REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING  
SALMON FISHING REGULATIONS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries in connection with the opening of the salmon fishing season today. Has the minister received any complaint or criticism from the salmon fishermen, particularly in the Bay of Fundy area, concerning the new fishing regulations and, if so, what was the reply?

**Hon. H.-J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, we have received a few complaints from individual fishermen who would like to enter this particular fishery but have not qualified for licensing. As the hon. member well knows, the commercial salmon fishery has to be restricted or at least controlled if we are to maintain this important resource for future generations and make it profitable for the fishermen who are actually engaged in this type of fishing.

I may add that this is not an entirely new regulation but the implementation of salmon licensing controls which have existed for a number of years and which have been amended in order to make them more applicable and more effective.

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** I have a supplementary question. Will the minister cause these applications to be checked over again to make certain no severe hardship is being imposed on bona fide fishermen?

**Mr. Robichaud:** Mr. Speaker, although the fishermen who are applying are bona fide fishermen, I still insist there must be control or restriction in the number of licenses that are awarded. Every application is being looked at carefully, and if there are extenuating circumstances consideration is being given to the applicant.

NOVA SCOTIA—FEDERAL ASSISTANCE  
AFTER STORM DAMAGE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and I know that he is aware of the tremendous loss of lobster traps off the coast of Nova Scotia and that he has indicated a study will be made of the situation. When may we anticipate a statement of government policy which will be helpful to these fishermen in recouping some of their losses?