

*Oral Questions*

and insist on self-determination as provided for in the United Nations charter.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The right hon. member should put his question. I think he ought to limit representation.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, this is something that should have been discussed in this parliament before the Prime Minister—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Every time the cacklers cackle, I know I have touched something. I ask the Prime Minister what stand Canada will take in this regard.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as to the matter of representations, I do not believe I have received any specific representations about this conference I am attending next week. Of course, I have heard from Canadian groups of various origins about the subject many times. I have always responded to them and given them my views on it. They are well known.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** What are they?

**Mr. Trudeau:** As to the conference itself, it has been in preparation for about two years. It has been discussed many times. I have answered many questions and I have had a press conference on it.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** We are talking about parliament, not press conferences.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Parliament never deigned to ask me any questions on this.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I deigned to ask you a question.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Every time I have been asked questions on foreign affairs, I have attempted to deal with them as best I could. I have no recollection of having been asked specific details about this particular conference. However, I have said in various places that Canada's role in this conference has been a very constructive one indeed. We are the ones who insisted on doing the most on what is known as the third basket, the principle of free movement of people's ideas and exchange of information between various parts of the world and between various groups. We have been successful in getting this and other principles accepted. I intend to sign the document next week. It is not a negotiating conference. There has been agreement reached by the various governments on the document which will be proposed in Helsinki next week. I will, of course, be pleased to table that document in the House when I return.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, that is exactly the kind of evasion we get when the Prime Minister deals with External Affairs. This is a matter affecting every Canadian. The answer is as uncertain as it is meaningless. What stand will Canada take before signing a treaty with regard to the right of self-determination being assured, as provided for in the United Nations charter, for Ukrainian

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

people, those of the Baltic states and others who are kept in captive nations behind the Iron Curtain?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I have not evaded that question. I have told the right hon. member and the House the government's views on these subjects. I can tell the right hon. member that it is not the intention of the conference in Helsinki to change the frontiers of any countries which are now members of the United Nations.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, this is an important matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Only five minutes remain in the question period. There are several hon. members seeking the floor. The right hon. member for Prince Albert and the Prime Minister have now absorbed close to 10 minutes on this subject. I feel we should go on to another matter.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** We may have taken up 10 minutes, but we did not get any information.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I am not going to be yelled down by a bunch of baboons.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If the right hon. member has a point of order, he can raise it at 3:25.

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**FISHERIES****GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO STOP DEPLETION OF FISH STOCKS**

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of State (Fisheries). Since his announcement yesterday that our eastern ports will be closed to Russian ships, general public reaction seems to be that while this will cause the Russians some inconvenience, it will have little effect on reducing overfishing on the east coast and no effect whatsoever in dealing with the rapid depletion of our stocks of herring, salmon and halibut on the west coast, what further steps do the minister and the government intend to take in order to stop this steady decline of fish stocks, both on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member read the statement that I made on this matter, it was obvious that our decision to close the port was very much related to violation and over-run of quotas. If quotas are respected, at least the resources will be protected. We do not think that this will be enough. At the next ICNAF meeting in September, we will insist on a 40 per cent reduction of effort. As for the