

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

NDP has suggested that the anti-inflation fight in Canada is unnecessary because of the lower rate of price increases here compared with abroad. This, again, is a development that can only be attributed to the government's economic policies.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. It being ten o'clock p.m., it is my duty to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 58(11) the proceedings on the motion before the House are considered to have expired.

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

**FISHERIES—DEPLETION OF MARINE RESOURCES—
DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET UNION**

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, on November 10, as recorded at page 1048 of *Hansard*, I asked the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) the following question:

Can the minister say if he has succeeded in arranging talks with the Soviet Union concerning the depletion of our marine resources? If so, when will these meetings take place?

The minister replied that no meetings had been scheduled at least to that date, November 10. This came as quite a surprise to us because we were led to believe from a statement made by the minister, and reported in the *St. John's Daily News*, that efforts were being made by him to arrange some kind of meetings with the Soviet government with a view to arriving at some kind of management control and conservation of our marine resources. I am sure the House is aware that there is a very serious danger of depletion of the fishing resources in the territorial waters off the east coast of Canada. Scientists say, and the minister has gone on record as agreeing, that unless something is done in the next five to ten years to impose management control, the cod species could become a rare delicacy.

● (10:00 p.m.)

Mr. Bell: It is now.

Mr. Carter: The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan) has raised this matter in the House on numerous occasions. We have urged the minister to get together with the member nations of ICNAF to agree upon some kind of management control. In the past ten years, despite improved methods the cod catch in Newfoundland has been reduced by 50 per cent. In the same period, from 1958 to 1968, the catch on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland increased by something like 700 per cent because of the increased capability of foreign

[Mr. Mahoney.]

nationals. This, of course, is to the detriment of the fishermen of Newfoundland and all those on the east coast of Canada.

Some time ago we learned that the minister was meeting with the delegation from the Soviet Union to discuss conservation methods and management control on the west coast of Canada and we raised the question of why the conference should be confined to that area. The minister has since stated that he does intend to have similar talks with the Soviet Union concerning the east coast.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I ask what this minister and the government intend to do about the present situation on the east coast of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Carter: Our marine resources are being raped; they are being depleted to a frightening degree. In Newfoundland, while our catches are decreasing the catches of the Soviet Union, East Germany and other European countries are increasing. Mr. Speaker, I realize that I only have seven minutes in which to make my point, so perhaps right away I should ask the minister this question: What is going to happen to the east coast fisheries unless something is done by the government to bring an end to this rape and plunder?

I know the minister has only three minutes in which to reply, so I ask him to make the government's plans and intentions known. I hope he will tell us if he plans to talk to the Russians, to the East Germans and the other countries of the world that are plundering our east coast fisheries. When are these meetings to take place? Will there be representation from eastern Canada? As I asked earlier: When will these representations be made? The minister will probably say there will be a Law of the Sea conference in the near future. We contend that this conference will not take place for another five years, which may be too late as far as the east coast fisheries are concerned.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Carter) is correct in his understanding that we are endeavouring to talk with the Russians in a bilateral way—that is, Canada and the U.S.S.R. only—about common problems in the North Atlantic, problems in the fishing industry and in particular the problem of overfishing.

I spoke to the Russian delegation that visited Canada after several preliminaries on our part to discuss the situation on the west coast at which time I suggested such a meeting. I received some indication from them that they would be prepared to discuss this matter specifically with us. We will of course be following this up. As of this moment I do not have a reply from the Russians saying there will be such a meeting. However, we will continue to press for a meeting of this kind.