the attitude of the delegates to this conference to Canada's proposals concerning conservation, special preference for coastal states, and the restriction of high seas salmon fishing by the Danes?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I have been in touch daily with our delegation in Washington. These discussions are proceeding satisfactorily. It looks as though our basic proposal for over-all and national quotas will be accepted by the Commission.

ICNAF ANNUAL MEETING—POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE AGREEMENT IN LIGHT OF SUPPORT FOR DANISH POSITION ON HIGH SEAS SALMON FISHING

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister what are the chances for Canada achieving some kind of a compromise agreement in light of what appears to be unexpected support for the Danish position from other quarters apart from the United States and West Germany?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, negotiations are still under way and I cannot anticipate their conclusion.

* * *

NATIONAL SECURITY

ALLEGED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON WHICH ANSWERS BASED RESPECTING POSSIBILITY OF MEMBER FOR TRINITY HAVING BROKEN OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, my question is on the matter of security and is addressed to the Prime Minister. In light of the answer to a question put by the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe, found at page 2629 of *Hansard*, in which the Solicitor General said, referring to the hon. member for Trinity, that if he "wants to break his oath or hide behind it to arouse suspicion, it is up to him", and the answer by the Prime Minister that "some of his allegations"—meaning the hon. member for Trinity—"are apparently based on some things he got from cabinet" and "these communications are certainly privileged and under oath of secrecy", what facts did the hon. member for Trinity, the former deputy prime minister of Canada in this government, disclose as alleged by the Prime Minister to suggest that the former deputy prime minister broke his oath of office as a Privy Councillor in the Canadian government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I used the word "apparently" in my answer because I had not looked too closely at the matter. I have a transcript of the remarks made in the CBC news interview and apparently the commentator himself, in introducing the hon. member for Trinity, said this: "He also"—meaning the hon. member for Trinity—"admitted he was making the statement at the risk of breaking his cabinet oath of secrecy."

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I am not asking the Prime Minister about the commentator on the CBC. I am asking the Prime Minister about his statement and the statement of the Solicitor General that the hon. member for Trinity, the former deputy prime minister of this country, broke his oath of office as alleged by the Prime Minister yesterday. What particular facts did the hon. member for Trinity state, on the basis of which the Prime Minister said he broke his oath of office?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is misquoting me. I did not say he broke his oath of office, nor did the Solicitor General say that.

Mr. Woolliams: I do not want to get into an argument with the Prime Minister. The words speak for themselves. Would the Prime Minister be prepared to make the same statement outside the House as he made in the House yesterday so that the hon. member for Trinity would have the proper remedy in law with respect to that statement?

Mr. Benson: Is this a new recruit for Action Canada?

* * *

INDIAN AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO RESOLUTION OF ABORIGINAL RIGHTS NOT COVERED BY TREATIES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development with regard to the matter of aboriginal rights outside areas covered by treaties. Has the minister taken any initiative with regard to the resolution of these claims, as distinct from any rights or controversies over rights arising out of treaties?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as I already told the House, the question has been referred by the Indians of northern British Columbia, the Nishga Tribal Council. The question is now being dealt with by the Supreme Court of Canada and only once that Court has passed judgment shall I be in a position to make comments.

• (1510)

[*English*]

Mr. Stanfield: Is it the position of the government that this is a matter to be resolved by the courts and that the government does not intend to adopt any other method to achieve the resolution of these claims?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, it is customary to avoid making any comments on such questions while they are being examined by the Supreme Court so as not to give the impression that we intend to influence the court.

[*English*]

Mr. Stanfield: You can't get away with that.