

Oral Questions
COAST GUARD

OPERATIONAL DATE FOR NEW EQUIPMENT

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the concern that exists on the west coast for the general condition of the coast guard capability in regard to the \$63 million equipment program that was announced last May by his department, can the minister advise if there has been any change in this program and can he tell the House when this new equipment will be operational?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the M.V. *Bastien City* will be available for assistance to the fishermen during the herring roe season. In addition, the program which was outlined with regard to our coast guard facilities in total and our search and rescue facilities in total will be put in place. That means some additional search and rescue tasking will be given to vessels which are otherwise available. There will not be additional new equipment apart from that this year.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BOUNDARY DISPUTES RESULTING FROM EXTENSION OF
FISHING ZONE—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT ON
SETTLEMENT

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs? On Tuesday, February 8, I requested a report from the minister on the boundary dispute between Canada and the United States. He stated that a series of meetings was held on this matter in Los Angeles and that further meetings will be resuming before the Prime Minister meets with President Carter on Monday next. Since the settlement of this boundary issue involves jurisdiction over the fisheries resources as well as national sovereignty over possible under water oil, gas and mineral development, has the minister any further information to give the House which will ensure there will be no disruption of Canadian fishing activity on the Georges Bank area as of March 1, especially since Ambassador Warren has returned to Canada and I understand he was one of our negotiators on this matter? At the same time will the minister indicate the progress being made by another group of the Department of External Affairs which is working on the maritime boundaries dispute between Canada and the United States.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in the precise way in which the question was phrased, relating to Georges Bank, I could answer briefly that these negotiations are progressing very satisfactorily. That would not tell the total story, however, in the sense that there is also some problem with regard to negotiations on the west coast relative to salmon stocks. This is for the short term or the interim arrangement which we are seeking to obtain for 1977.

[Mr. Andras.]

The further talks to which the hon. member referred began on Friday last week and continued into Sunday. The members of the Canadian delegation, who returned home, have already reported and will probably be going back again. In other words, it is a continuing negotiating process. It is still my expectation, and I believe I can say it is the hope and expectation of the United States authorities, that we can have in place by March 1 an interim arrangement on fisheries for 1977. The objective of this will be to ensure there is no significant change in traditional fishing patterns. This would be put in place with a view to obtaining a period without difficulty for fishermen in 1977 during which the longer term negotiations on the boundary might take place.

Mr. Crouse: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the economic importance of this whole matter to Atlantic Canada as well as the west coast, can the minister assure the House that it will be discussed when the Prime Minister meets with President Carter on Monday?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I have not the slightest doubt it will be. As I think the hon. member knows, I will also be in Washington at that time. It is my intention to see it is dealt with at the official level also.

RUMANIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA—SUGGESTED PROTEST OF
ARRESTS MADE IN VIOLATION OF HELSINKI AGREEMENT

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have two simple questions for the Secretary of State for External Affairs which refer to the disregard of the human rights aspect of the Helsinki agreement by a number of east European countries. Can the minister explain to the House why his government is afraid—gutless would be a better word—to voice its concern and dismay to these countries without depending on the motion of an individual member? Second, why is the government limiting its objections to one nation only, the Soviet Union, as was witnessed yesterday by the refusal of government members as well as ministers to accept my motion extending this parliament's concern to the governments of Rumania and Czechoslovakia for similar breaches of the Helsinki agreement?

An hon. Member: You were told that.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is the first time in a long time that I have been referred to as gutless. Let me say to the hon. member that I would refer him to *Hansard*. I saw the response of the Acting Prime Minister and I thought it quite reasonable in the circumstances to suggest that the matter be discussed upon my return to the House today. I will be very glad to do that. There is no reluctance on our part to denounce the kinds of activities in various other countries to which the hon. member has referred. It is a question—and unfortunately I have to say this in public—of looking at this matter on a mutually agreed basis so that we can have a satisfactory result, as indeed we did have on Monday.