

Fisheries

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to hold up the passage of this bill unduly. We must take into account the difficulties in the committee structure as it now exists in this parliament and existed in the previous parliament. I disagree with the words of my hon. friend and neighbour, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas), that this will be the place where we can look into these matters. Because of the committee structure, we cannot effectively look into them. Ten minutes for each member to bring forth his point and to get questions put forward are, surely, not enough.

Because we are talking about amendments to the Fisheries Act, I am going to use this opportunity to put on record a variety of matters which concern and trouble fishermen on the west coast. Before proceeding to specific itemization of those problems, as I have said on previous occasions, and as was mentioned by the hon. member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse), I want to make a comment concerning the regulations the minister is empowered to formulate. One other hon. member might have mentioned it as well. We are continually running into this problem. The regulations which the minister formulates, and possibly publishes, are difficult to obtain. I will come back to some of the existing regulations on which fishermen are having great difficulty getting their hands. They do not know the terms under which they are fishing, for example, and they are being regulated by regulations they do not know about. This is not good enough. We should have the regulations in front of us before we deal with this bill.

I make a special request to the minister. He should have draft regulations covering the areas he is planning to change. There should be texts of the regulations before us when this bill goes to committee for study after second reading. This is vitally important. We saw in the maritime code when we were dealing with that matter the fear expressed across the country about those regulations. That made us hesitate to proceed with final reading on that occasion, and there is legitimate cause for fear about this legislation. I ask the minister to bring forward the draft regulations which he is planning to issue using the powers granted to him under this bill.

The first matter of concern to me, and of concern to the fishermen on the west coast, is the Canada-United States fisheries agreement which was concluded rather hastily following discussions in Los Angeles late in February where certain broad terms of agreement were reached, but not sufficiently firm to permit the conclusion of an agreement. Within a matter of a week, in order to enhance and give more propaganda value to the visit which was made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to Washington and the discussions that were concluded there, there was a Canada-United States fisheries agreement concluded at that time.

On an earlier occasion I gave an indication, through presentation of statistics, of the value of the westcoast fisheries to the Canadian economy.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Kaplan) rises on a point of order.

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, a number of hon. members wish to speak in private members' hour on notice of motion No. 11. In view of the position we have reached in dealing with the bill before the House, I wonder if there might be unanimous agreement to allow the hon. member to conclude his remarks in private members' hour. I point out that this is the second hour on which motion No. 11 has been before us in this session. The mover has already spoken on it, as have a number of members from both sides of the House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The House has heard the proposal of the hon. parliamentary secretary. Is there agreement that we allow the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I gather the proposal of the parliamentary secretary is that we continue this debate for a few more moments and intrude on the private members' hour. Am I correct in my understanding?

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, my suggestion is simply that the hon. member be given time out of private members' hour to conclude.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I do not think that is necessarily going to solve anything in itself, inasmuch as there are two speakers who want to participate. While I want to co-operate in every way to expedite the business of this government, I think, since it is five o'clock, we should proceed to private members' hour.

● (1700)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens)—The Canadian Economy—Possibility of industrial strategy to avoid future high levels of unemployment; the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Hnatyshyn)—Confederation—Possibility of establishing third organization concerned with unity; the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski)—Energy—Proposed upgrading facility for heavy oil at Lloydminster—Government position on feasibility report.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions and public bills.