

Oral Questions

says that the balance has since been fully restored in respect of labour income?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for South Shore.

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FISHERIES

PRESENCE OF RUSSIAN TRAWLERS OFF NOVA SCOTIA COAST—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PROTECT CANADIAN INTERESTS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 20 I directed a question to the Prime Minister concerning Russian trawlers seining herring by night and dragging for silver hake by day off Seal Island near the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. I now redirect that question to the Minister of State (Fisheries), and I will point out to him that the Russian fleet of nine mother ships and over 60 auxiliary fishing vessels is part of a foreign fleet of 200 ships operating off southwestern Nova Scotia. Is the Minister of State (Fisheries) aware that over 1,000 Russians are now fishing some 20 miles from the Yarmouth waterfront, and if so, is he taking any steps to protect the fishing industry in the Bay of Fundy and St. Mary's Bay, which will be completely destroyed if the present excessive foreign fleets continue to operate in that area?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the question pertains to penetration of Canadian waters within the 12 mile limit. I would have to refresh my memory, but I believe the report was not factual. As to the number of ships, I would certainly concede that there are a large number of ships. Within the herring quota allowed we believe that there is very heavy fishing. We have not yet full evidence of violation, but we are increasing surveillance.

Mr. Crouse: The minister can certainly add to his information by simply flying over the fleet and taking pictures, which has been done by numerous newspapers off Atlantic Canada.

If the minister is not planning any steps to halt foreign fishing, will he revise the restrictive licensing program of the government, which is seriously handicapping the operations of Canadian fishermen inshore and offshore?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Under ICNAF our regulations are agreed to, and it is difficult to ask other nations fishing in those zones to respect the regulations if we do not respect them ourselves. Obviously, the pictures which I have seen in the newspapers indicate a large concentration of fishing vessels. We are trying to ascertain violations and we have reported violations in the past. If violations are taking place, I have not had any recent report as to our estimates of violation of quotas.

[Mr. Fraser.]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

OFFER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TO NEGOTIATE CUT-OFF LAND CLAIMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jack Pearsall (Coast Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Can the minister confirm that the provincial government of British Columbia has finally given in and is now prepared to discuss the "cut-off lands" claims with representatives of our native people? If so, how much federal government participation will be involved and how much will the federal government have to pay?

● (1450)

Some hon. Members: Order paper.

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Buchanan: —to indicate that the government of British Columbia has agreed to deal with the limited question of cut-off lands. This is a course of action which my predecessor and I have urged upon them for several years. Now that they have taken this initial step I hope that the province of British Columbia will screw up its courage and come to grips with the much broader—

An hon. Member: They screwed up everything else.

Mr. Buchanan: —with the much broader question of the general land claim.

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HOUSING

AMOUNT OF SUBSIDIES FOR PRIVATE AHOP AND LIMITED DIVIDEND PROGRAMS—AMOUNT OF MONEY AVAILABLE FROM PRIVATE LENDING INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. On Monday the Minister of Finance announced an increase in the subsidies to be paid out under the private AHOP and private limited dividend programs. No figure was given of the total amount to be committed for the subsidies. Can the minister give the House an estimate?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not have the precise figures involved. We are watching the program very carefully. We believe that these additional subsidies for the traditional ownership program and the emergency rental program will create the infusion of private funds that we looked for. We have been negotiating with the private institutions, and I am sure there will be adequate money to look after the funds that are available from the private lending institutions.

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Speaker, I hope I get an answer this time. When these programs were introduced this spring