

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Lewis:** In view of the fact that the government has definitely reached a decision on this subject, will the Prime Minister stop hiding behind the suggestion that—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not a question, that is a suggestion.

**Mr. Lewis:** May I rephrase my question, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest to the hon. member that very soon we will be running short of time. If the hon. member has a supplementary question, it should be asked in proper form and as quickly as possible.

**Mr. Lewis:** I will be glad to ask it in proper form if the Prime Minister will answer in proper form. In view of the fact that months ago the Prime Minister undertook to make an announcement of policy on this issue as soon as the government had made a decision on it, will he now make that announcement in view of the fact that the decision has been reached and not wait for publication of studies which can come after the policy has been announced?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that we will be running out of time in a few moments. The Prime Minister might answer the question, but we will have to reduce the number of supplementary questions.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the NDP has made a suggestion. It is one way of proceeding. This government believes that it is important to state the government's policy and at the same time to have available the background documents on which this policy was based, in order that there may be an informed public discussion of it. This is a subject which has provoked a great deal of emotional debate in all parties, and we think that it would be right for the Canadian public to have the facts at the same time as they have the government's policy decision. The hon. member may not agree with that, but that is the government's position.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

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**FISHERIES****ATLANTIC SALMON—POSSIBLE AGREEMENT TO CEASE FISHING**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the fact that the Atlantic salmon is threatened with extinction due to excessive deep sea fishing by foreign nationals, especially the Danes, in Davis Strait, could the minister indicate whether any progress has been made to end this tragic situation through further discussions or agreement among the countries who are signatories to the International Convention for the North Atlantic Fishery and who belong to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Commission, to cease deep sea salmon fishing?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries):** Some progress has been made, but certainly not enough and we must

[Mr. Speaker.]

continue to press for the complete cessation of high sea fishing for salmon.

**STATUS OF AGREEMENT WITH DENMARK—REQUEST FOR TABLING**

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Has the Minister of Fisheries or the Department of External Affairs concluded an agreement with Denmark, and would he be prepared to table the results of that agreement in the House?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries):** An agreement for the phasing out of Danish fishermen from the Gulf of St. Lawrence and other Canadian waters and the tagging of our fisheries lines has been under discussion during the past summer. I am not quite sure of the precise status of that agreement. I do not think it has been ratified by Denmark as yet, but it will be tabled very shortly.

**Mr. Speaker:** Again I have to bring to the attention of hon. members that we will be running short of time. The original question was asked by the hon. member for South Shore. One supplementary question was asked by another hon. member and another hon. member wishes to ask a further supplementary question. Obviously, a number of hon. members will not have the opportunity to ask their questions if we have too many supplementary questions. However, I will recognize the hon. member for St. John's East.

**REPORTING OF FISH TAGGED BY CANADA—CO-OPERATION OF DENMARK**

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** I wish to ask my supplementary question because this is a serious matter. I should like to ask the minister whether the Danes are co-operating with Canada in reporting any fish that were tagged in Canadian waters which were caught off Greenland by the Danes?

**Mr. Davis:** There is some co-operation.

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[Translation]

**POST OFFICE****INQUIRY AS TO CONTENT OF MINISTERS' LETTER TO CERTAIN PRIVATE POSTAL DELIVERY TRUCKING COMPANIES**

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General.

I should like to ask him whether he could inform the House of the contents of the letter he sent to several private trucking companies, engaged in mail delivery under contracts with the federal government, and what was the purpose of such a letter? Could he tell us whether he is trying to acquire those private companies so as to make a Crown corporation out of the Post Office Department?

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I did not send any letter to any contractor.