

Inquiries of the Ministry

When the opportunity arises—and we hope it will be soon—we can discuss this bill which we trust will be passed quickly.

[English]

Mr. McIntosh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member who asked that last question misinformed the House and the people of Canada in the preamble to his question. The national marketing board proposal was only accepted by the ministers of the prairie provinces with respect to chickens.

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AIR CANADA**DIFFICULTY IN MAKING RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONE**

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): In view of the statement in Air Canada's manual to the effect that the aim of customer service is to provide the highest possible standard of service at any time and in all conditions, will the Minister of Transport tell us whether he is prepared to explain to the House why telephone calls to Air Canada requesting reservations are invariably answered by a recording indicating that all reservation lines are busy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that this kind of question should normally be asked in some other way. I would not think that in those terms the question is in order. If the hon. member thinks he can rephrase it or put it in another way, he will be allowed a supplementary.

Mr. Skoberg: I will rephrase the question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Transport initiate an investigation into why it is that all Air Canada reservation lines to Montreal are invariably answered by a busy signal?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): My first answer, Mr. Speaker, is that I regret this inconvenience to Air Canada customers. Second, I am delighted that so many people are recognizing that this is the way to fly. I will be glad to look into the matter for the hon. member.

Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Transport why it is easier to get information about Air Canada movements by using the members' line to Winnipeg and asking the Winnipeg office than by using the office in Ottawa?

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FISHERIES**EXTENSION BY MASSACHUSETTS OF FISH PROTECTION BOUNDARY 200 MILES SEAWARD—SIMILAR ACTION BY CANADA**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Has the minister examined the bill passed by the Massachusetts legislature on November 8 which extends the boundary of that state for purposes of fisheries and environmental protection to a point 200 miles offshore,

[Mr. Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean).]

and is the minister prepared to advocate similar action on the part of Canada since this seems to indicate a change of attitude on the part of the United States?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): I have made inquiries, Mr. Speaker, but I have not yet seen this legislation. It would seem to me to be ridiculous. There could be no possible parallel in Canada. If the hon. member is suggesting that Newfoundland alone declare a 200-mile limit, then I think he should talk to the government of that province.

Mr. McGrath: In view of the abysmal ignorance of the Minister of Fisheries and the Secretary of State for External Affairs because of not having seen the bill, I am going to send a copy to them for their education and edification.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND 14 ICNAF NATIONS IMPOSING QUOTA ON YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER—CANADIAN ACTION RESPECTING CONTINENTAL SHELF

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, has the Minister of Fisheries been apprised of the recent agreement between the United States and the 14 nations of ICNAF in zone 5, the southern zone of the northwest Atlantic fisheries, to impose quotas on certain species of fish, especially yellowtail flounder, and are similar moves being planned by Canada to curtail the present overfishing of that species on our own continental shelf?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, since Canada has taken the initiative with respect to the establishment of quotas I think we can take some credit for that agreement as well.

Mr. Lundrigan: Has the minister's office been informed of the presence of 40 to 50 Russian and Polish trawlers on the Grand Banks which are overfishing this particular species to the extent that Canadian fishing vessels have had to leave the area, and what action is the minister taking?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, we are kept aware daily of the presence of foreign fishing fleets off our shores. As to whether these fleets are overfishing a particular species in a particular area, I would have to make further inquiries.

Mr. McGrath: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for St. John's East on a final supplementary but we will move on to the next question immediately thereafter.

SUGGESTED TALKS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO DETERMINE REACTION TO POSSIBLE CANADIAN EXTENSION OF JURISDICTION TO COVER CONTINENTAL SHELF

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I address my supplementary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in view of the importance of this matter to Canada, and to the Atlantic provinces in particular, is the minister prepared to initiate bilateral talks with coun-