

Oral Questions

whatever his wish is once I have had an opportunity to look into the question and the answer in detail.

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FISHERIES**ATLANTIC SALMON—ACTION TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SURVEILLANCE OF RIVERS TO PROTECT AGAINST POACHERS**

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the depletion of Atlantic salmon stock as a result of massive poaching operations on the Tobique, St. John and other rivers, and in view of the economic importance of this salmon to both commercial fishermen and the tourist industry, what measures is the government planning to take to extend adequate surveillance services for the protection of this valuable resource?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, if I could agree with the hon. member's premise, I might be able to give him a more substantive answer. The reality is that the salmon have been late in moving up to the Atlantic Rivers this summer. Just last night about 4,000 units moved to the area of the MacTaqvac dam in that area. There is a very substantial improvement. It means that what was at first believed to be the result of excessive poaching was in fact a result of lateness of the biology of the species. As for poaching, we have already had two raids which resulted in the confiscation of nets. I recognize there is some difficulty, especially relating to the native Indians of New Brunswick, but I think that these difficulties can be overcome.

Mr. McCain: In 1976, the Tobique river was closed for all salmon fishing. This appeared to be because the Department of Fisheries was so understaffed that law enforcement was impossible. Since then what I would term a comparable situation has allegedly taken place on the St. John this year. In these specific instances, has the staff been increased and can the laws be properly enforced for the balance of 1977?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, like many members of his party, complains when we ask for an increase in the number of public servants and when we cannot do all the tasks they ask us to do, they again complain. However, in the case of the St. John river we have had the assistance of the RCMP in undertaking the operations we have undertaken in the last few days. There will never be a level of surveillance to avoid all incidents of poaching just as there will never be enough policemen to avoid all incidents of vandalism. The officials of my department are doing their very best, including working weekends, to ensure proper surveillance.

[Mr. Jamieson.]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**POSSIBLE ABOLITION OF CERTAIN RADAR CONTROL CENTRES—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. The *Queen's Quarterly*, a prestigious journal, states that the United States has announced plans for integrating its military and civilian radars and abolishing its SAGE regional control centres such as the one we have at North Bay. Is the minister contemplating doing the same thing in Canada in order to keep in line with the United States policy?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, this relates to our whole North American air defence through NORAD. It is an area under review by the United States in consultation with ourselves. A full report should be in shortly so that these systems are rationalized and observe our concerns and the concerns of everyone else on national sovereignty.

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT WITH INTERCEPTOR CAPABILITY—POSSIBLE CHANGE IN PRIORITIES

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): My supplementary also has to do with air defence. President Carter has cancelled the B-1 contract. This calls into question the role of manned bombers. At the present time the minister has invited several companies to bid on the new fighter aircraft with interceptor capability for Canadian forces at a cost of approximately \$2.5 billion. Is he now reviewing this decision and is there any likelihood of changing his priority which put the new fighter aircraft ahead of the replacement ships for the navy?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it changes the priority on the new fighter aircraft. It certainly does not change the priority on the new ship program, either. Both are moving ahead as quickly as possible. The whole range of North American air defence and our role in NATO were considered very seriously in the consideration of the new fighter aircraft. Hopefully, as I said before, one can serve both roles. It might be necessary to go to two types but the factors raised will be considered.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**POLLUTION OF GREAT LAKES—POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING TIMETABLE FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION BY INDUSTRY**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of the Environment. It is supplementary to a question asked earlier by the hon. member for Brant. The question has to do with the 47 problems identified in 1971. These 47 problems still exist in the Great Lakes basin. As I understood it at that time, there was to be a timetable which industry had to follow. Industry claims that they have been following this timetable. Does the minister now