

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered.

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QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. Douglas Fisher (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if Question No. 205 could be made an order for return, the return would be tabled immediately.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that Question No. 205 be deemed to have been made an order for return?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

[Text]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS—EMPLOYMENT OF OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS

Question No. 205—**Mr. Blenkarn:**

1. In the fiscal year (a) 1981-82 (b) 1982-83 were outside consultants employed by the Department of Communications and, if so (i) how many (ii) what was the total amount paid?

2. Were any consultants paid more than \$20,000 and, if so, in each case what (a) was his/her name (b) was the amount (c) services were provided?

Return tabled.

[English]

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

● (1250)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 62—PACIFIC COAST FISHERY

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South) moved:

That this House condemns the government for having taken no action to resolve the problems facing the Pacific Coast fishery primary among which is the government's Pacific Fisheries Policy, described by the Pearse report as resulting from "uncertain objectives, weak and outdated legislation, bad organization, contradictory programs and confusion", and which undermines the viability of the Pacific Coast fishery, reduces fish stocks, and threatens the livelihood of Canadians who depend upon this important resource.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a matter of great urgency for all of those who make their living from the fisheries on the West Coast of our country. Mr. Speaker, you have read the motion which contains the words of Dr. Pearse, who completed a royal commission into the situation on the

Supply

West Coast and condemned the Government by stating that its policy was "uncertain objectives, weak and outdated legislation, bad organization, contradictory programs and confusion".

It is important that the people of Canada realize that, in the words of a Department of Fisheries working paper of January 5, 1984:

The Pacific salmon fishery is in "crisis".

Dr. Pearse in his report in September, 1982, in almost the same words said:

Canada Pacific fisheries are at a crisis point.

Dr. Pearse went on to say:

Although aggravated by current conditions, the economic problems and other concerns are rooted in fundamental deficiencies in fisheries policy.

Just a few weeks ago Dr. Pearse said:

The situation in the salmon fishery is now worse than when I made my report.

The Cruickshank Report, which was commissioned by the Government and reported several years ago, said:

The present fleet capacity and over-capitalization is the direct result of government inefficiency and a series of misjudgments and inactions.

It was curious to find that the Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. De Bané), who I know is concerned about the West Coast fishery, when I read that quote to him some days ago in this Chamber, said:

I have difficulty in following the logic of the Hon. Member who now wants to blame the Government for those who have decided, contrary to elementary common sense, on over capitalizing and over expanding their fleet.

Not only is the fishery in crisis, Mr. Speaker, but this Minister wants to blame the fishermen. He wants to blame the fishermen despite the quote from the Cruickshank Report commissioned by his own Department which said, and I repeat:

The present fleet capacity and over-capitalization is the direct result of government inefficiency and a series of misjudgments and inactions.

It is not difficult setting out what the problems are, Mr. Speaker. They are not yet fully understood by the public in all of Canada, but the fishermen on the West Coast understand them only too well. The question is what we should do about it.

Before any program of action to save stocks, enhance stocks, and maintain a fishery can be planned and implemented, there must be basic agreement by the user groups and the Department as to what the facts really are. There is nothing radical about this idea although, frankly, I do not think it exists at the moment. You cannot send troops into action without effective reconnaissance. In other words, you must know what the ground is like, where the enemy is, where the difficulties are and where the opportunities are.

In saying this, Mr. Speaker, the last thing I am proposing is another inquiry. I am proposing that a simple list of things we know and things we should know be agreed upon. For instance, if we do not know today whether our salmon are being intercepted on the high seas, let us find out. If we do know that in some river systems there is abundant unused spawning area but the fish just are not getting there, then we know that runs