

**Mr. Blais:** I am not aware of any such evidence. If the hon. member indicates that evidence has been presented before a committee of the House, I will look at it and comment further at a later time.

**Mr. Jarvis:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer the Solicitor General to page 2:26 and the following pages of the minutes of the standing committee of November 24. My supplementary question is: In view of the fact that we will be studying the estimates, including the Solicitor General's, in a very short time—which does not provide me with time to put the necessary questions on the order paper—will he undertake to provide details of the cost of travel and the air fares of Mr. Warren Hart and the Canadian employees who accompanied him, in order that that may be a subject matter before the standing committee when the estimates of the Solicitor General's department are studied?

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, I will give the hon. member's representations serious consideration.

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### FISHERIES

#### REQUEST BAN ON SWORDFISHING REVOKED

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. According to reports, the provincial minister of fisheries for Nova Scotia told the provincial legislature that he has been informed by the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment and by the Minister of National Health and Welfare that the ban on swordfishing on the coast of Atlantic Canada will be lifted soon: I think he indicated that it would be this spring.

In view of the importance and the value of this fishery in the past, and the time required to rebuild the fleet, would the minister indicate when we can anticipate an announcement in the House on the lifting of the swordfishing ban? In light of the large number of swordfish presently sold by the American fleet in the United States, can he indicate if he has made representations to his counterpart to lift the ban on the sale of swordfish in the United States, or any other country, which would be helpful in re-establishing this industry?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the exact words used by the minister for Nova Scotia but I have seen the press clipping. The reality is that we have been trying for some time to find a way to solve the problem of utilization of swordfish because of the mercury content difficulty. As the hon. member knows very well, only 10 per cent of the swordfish taken has traditionally been sold in the Canadian market. It is doubtful that the economics would justify reopening the fishery just for the Canadian market. To this end, we are contacting and working with the Americans involved in the Food and Drug Administration. In fact, a meeting is scheduled for the next week or ten days. It is a decision that has to be taken by them.

### Privilege

We are attempting to influence that decision, but they may not come our way.

#### REQUEST FOR ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF SALMON FISHERY

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. It deals with another species and the ban and restriction in the close-down of the salmon season. Can the minister indicate whether reconsideration has been given to the fierce restrictions on the closing of the salmon rivers? What are his intentions with regard to increasing the number of river guardians to try to prevent an increase in poaching which is taking place in all Canadian salmon rivers?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows very well, the conservation measures which are taken are determined by biologists because we need escapement for spawning.

● (1502)

As for the poaching problem, the hon. member was on the committee when the penalties were considerably increased by this parliament. He knows that magistrates have been showing much more severity in their judgments when there is a conviction. He also knows that upon conviction we seize and forfeit equipment, vehicles, nets, etc., which were used in the violation.

As for the number of people employed in guarding the streams and rivers, the hon. member knows that we are always limited by the number of man-years allocated to our department and, of course, by the pressures on our department to manage the 200-mile limit properly and, therefore, the use of resources in that area.

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### PRIVILEGE

#### MR. LAWRENCE—NOTICE RESPECTING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE—ALLEGATION MINISTER MISLED HOUSE DELIBERATELY

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There remains outstanding from last Thursday the question raised by the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham (Mr. Lawrence) giving notice to the Chair of a desire to raise a question of privilege, related to the action of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) which, according to the notice, was deliberately misleading the House.

This gave rise to a discussion as to whether or not that language can be used in parliament, and it led to the explanation by the hon. member at that time that his use of the language on the previous evening was not designed to offend parliamentary practices but rather had been calculated to put the matter on the record in order to test the rulings that have surrounded that particular language, and the rulings which