

not contradict what I said. He is quite right; for the past two years there has been overfishing. That was one of the difficulties with the present situation when the treaty was being held up in the Senate. That is why, on this side, we have attempted to put the best possible light on the President's decision to put an end to this since they could not get the treaty through the Senate, which we profoundly regret, and since this long delay was resulting in overfishing. We have accepted the President's undertaking to withdraw the treaty, I repeat, with some considerable regret on our side.

The President undertook, and I believe he repeated in this House—at least it was repeated at the press conference, in statements to the press—that they would be putting a scallop management plan in place there. It is precisely our hope and expectation that the overfishing of the past few years will now cease.

In lieu of the treaty we will have this management plan which I cannot say we are blessing in advance. But at least we see this as a positive step on the part of the United States administration to try to solve in that way the overfishing situation, which the hon. member and the government deplore. Whether it will work out or not, I honestly cannot say. But, as I argued, it is probably fair to give the United States administration a little time, since it is a new administration, to correct a situation which was getting more and more deplorable, not only over the past two years but over the years before that during the time when the treaty was being negotiated.

● (1200)

As far as trawlers and quotas are concerned, I am afraid I will have to take notice of that on behalf of the minister.

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PETITIONS

MR. FULTON—DUMPING OF TOXIC MINE TAILINGS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of House has laid upon the Table the forty-third report of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petition presented by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) and finds that it meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY TASK FORCE

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following agreement is a result of consultations I had earlier today with representatives of the opposition parties. Members of the special committee appointed to act as a special parliamentary task force on federal-provincial fiscal arrangements are Messrs. Blaikie, Blenkarn, Breau, Herbert, Loiselle, Thacker and Weatherhead. The said com-

Tabling of Documents

mittee is empowered to adjourn from place to place within Canada and the necessary staff is authorized to convene the committee.

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, there have been the usual consultations. We are prepared to have that matter go forward without debate.

Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, we agree.

Madam Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TABLING OF EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS OF INTERNAL ECONOMY RESPECTING EXTRA COMPENSATION TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES

Madam Speaker: In accordance with the motion moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and adopted by the House on December 19, 1980, I am pleased to table an extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Commissioners of Internal Economy held on Monday, March 3, 1981, regarding extra compensation to be paid to the House of Commons employees who worked extended hours during the lengthy session on December 18 and December 19, 1980.

Hon. members will note that the extract contains the names of those employees to whom the House wishes to express its thanks.

TABLING OF LETTER FROM MADAM SPEAKER TO MR. KNOWLES RESPECTING EXTRA COMPENSATION TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES

Madam Speaker: I also table the letter which I addressed to the Hon. Stanley Knowles dated March 4, 1981, explaining how we devised the amounts to be paid as extra compensation to the House of Commons employees. It is in English only because it was written to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). However, if the House agrees to append it to *Hansard*, it will be translated. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: It is so ordered.

[Editor's Note: For letter above referred to, see Appendix.]