

● (1425)

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, the commitment I can give to the Hon. Member is that I will personally review the whole case and, within a few days, make a final decision.

I should like to give a general outline of the matter so that Hon. Members will understand it. The fees that are charged by the Department for use of the facilities—and we have over 2,400 wharves and berthing facilities in Canada—are about 50 per cent of what the private sector charges for berthing facilities. The fees that fishermen pay for storing equipment with the Department are barely 20 per cent of what the private sector charges for similar facilities.

Our major investment in B.C. means that starting now, and in the years ahead, we will have to increase our expenditures substantially. I will review the case personally but I ask Hon. Members to think about this. If our fees are so high, why is the waiting list of fishermen who want to use the facilities of the Department, so long?

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INVASION OF GRENADA—REPORTED WELCOME BY CITIZENS

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The Government has, in effect, condemned the landing of Caribbean and American forces on Grenada. My talks with dozens of randomly selected Grenadians last Sunday indicated that, without exception, they welcomed this as the liberation of their island. “We are free”, was the most common comment. Will the Minister indicate whether popular support for the landing on that island would change the Government’s position to any degree?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear that the Hon. Member had a successful visit, and I appreciate the comments he has made. In reply to his specific question about whether new factors have caused the Government to change its position on this particular matter, I have read very carefully the comments made by the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for International Trade and I have seen no developments, even in those comments made by the Hon. Member, that would cause the Government to change the opinion it has already expressed.

REPORTED MASSACRE BY SOLDIERS OF FORMER REGIME

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, on October 21 the Minister of State for External Relations said in the House that after a “decent period of time” the Government would be recognizing Messrs. Austin, Coard and company as the new Government of Grenada. Is the Government aware that, on October 19, coup soldiers massacred

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between 100 and 200 men, women and children, according to my advice from eyewitnesses of that incident at Fort Rupert? If so, why were the Liberals conditioning Canadian public opinion to accept such a brutal regime so quickly?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member refers to the loss of life at Fort Rupert. I know there has been a loss of life. His estimate of 100 to 200 is much greater than any estimate we have. We have no evidence that the number is greater than 20 or so, but the Hon. Member may have information not available to us. I assure the Hon. Member that he is rather unfair in suggesting that we were attempting to condition public opinion to the acceptance of this kind of activity.

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● (1430)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF ITALY, PROFESSOR FUGLIELMO ROEHRSSSEN; DR. FRANCESCO SAJA, AND DR. MAURICIO NEVOLA, DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL

Mr. Deputy Speaker: May I call to the attention of the House the presence in our gallery of members of the Constitutional Court of Italy, Professor Fuglielmo Roehrsen; Dr. Francesco Saja, and Dr. Mauricio Nevola, Director of Protocol.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

FISHERIES

RESTRUCTURING OF FISHERIES IN QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Could the Minister inform the House whether his offer to restructure the fisheries industry in Quebec still holds, considering the unwillingness expressed by a number of ship’s captains in Newport who want to have their own factory, and could the Minister inform the House whether negotiations are continuing with fishermen in the Gaspé?

An Hon. Member: Good question!

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to inform the House that the federal Government’s offer still stands, and I was very pleased to receive the support of the majority of Newport fishermen. However, should a majority of the Newport fishermen change their minds, I would then have to reconsider the federal