

Oral Questions

[Translation]

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

REQUEST FOR REPEAL OF 30 PER CENT TARIFF ON TREE IMPORTS

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, Canadian Christmas tree producers have yet to hear from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) about the 30 per cent duty on U.S. imports.

Last week, following a meeting attended by Canadian and U.S. producers, the American producers decided to take steps to have retaliatory action taken against Canadian imports.

If the Minister of Finance does not take action before March 2, he may be jeopardizing the very existence of a Canadian industry that is worth nearly \$90 million, just to punish a U.S. industry that is worth only \$3 million.

The 30 per cent countervail on U.S. imports was not a good idea, and the Minister of Finance should withdraw it immediately before the Americans decide to take action themselves by imposing a similar countervail, which will mean hard times and a loss of jobs for Canadian producers.

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[English]

PENITENTIARIES

RELEASE ON MANDATORY SUPERVISION—INMATE'S REFUSAL TO DISCLOSE ADDRESS

Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, *The Toronto Sun* reports today that a convicted rapist who is about to be released on mandatory supervision refuses to tell Metro Police where he will be living. The police consider this individual very dangerous for, while on a one-day pass in 1980, he committed rape in Montreal. Yet the Warden of Warkworth Penitentiary has the audacity to say that the lack of an address is only a temporary problem. Has this individual lost his sense of responsibility toward Canadians? It seems that convicted criminals have more rights than law-abiding Canadians.

If this individual has no address, he should not be released. Canadians must be protected from the violent elements of our society. I call on the Government to investigate this matter immediately and severely reprimand those individuals who are responsible for this problem.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FISHERIES

SURVEILLANCE OF FRENCH FISHING VESSELS

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Yesterday the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans told the House of Commons that he appreciated the action of the people of St. Pierre and Miquelon in standing up to France against France's overfishing. He said: "When the time comes we will see just how firm Canada can be".

Yesterday, in an act of appreciation, the Government of Canada scoured the Atlantic Ocean, spotted not one but six French factory freezer trawlers overfishing, and turned tail and ran. It then spotted one lonely 30-metre boat from St. Pierre and Miquelon and, like a schoolyard bully, sent that boat into port. That happened in my riding.

When will Canada begin treating the factory freezer trawlers from France, which are overfishing by 20,000 metric tonnes of Canadian fish, the same as it treats boats from Newfoundland, the boat from St. Pierre and Miquelon, and boats from the other Atlantic provinces?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Acting Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, the time has come. This very day we are advising France that we have reason to believe that they are fishing more than the 6,400 tonnes of cod which they are permitted by us to fish in division 3PS. We are notifying them of that problem this afternoon. We are advising them that it is their responsibility to cease fishing and respect conservation requirements. We are advising them that if they choose to disregard the conservation needs of this fish stock, port privileges will be withdrawn. That is what we are doing in that regard.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: The wet fish trawler, *La Goellette*, from St. Pierre and Miquelon is, by the way, about 110 feet. It is authorized to fish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. We have an observer on that vessel and have reason to believe that it has violated its by-catch. It is allowed to catch 1 per cent of fish as a by-catch while fishing for cod. We have reason to believe that it has exceeded that and is violating our regulations. Since we prosecute Canadian vessels for doing this, and did so last year, we are going to prosecute this vessel this year for the same violations if, in fact, it turns out to be true that it has violated our fishing requirements. We will enforce the law as it relates to our 200-mile economic zone.

● (1420)

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, asking questions of this Minister is like participating in an Abbot and Costello routine.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!