

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

and that it is not necessary to have our office remain open during the entire week end and on statutory holidays solely for the purpose of issuing the permits that would be required by the limited number of foreign fishing vessels entering the port of St. John's.

Under the present arrangement, permits can be obtained on any weekday and on Saturday mornings. Foreign fishing vessels using the port facilities at St. John's have a ship's agent in that city who can determine in advance when a ship may be entering port. The shipping agents have been advised that any foreign fishing vessel wishing to enter St. John's on Saturday afternoons, Sundays or statutory holidays have only to advise our office in advance of their intentions and a permit for entry will be issued on the Friday preceding, or on any day earlier in the week. This is not at all unreasonable, because any fishing vessel captain, except in an emergency, knows several days beforehand when he will be entering port. The captain simply has to notify his agent, who in turn can secure the necessary permit from our department's

office without delay. In cases of emergency, such as illness of a crew member or danger to the vessel, our office is prepared to give oral clearance at any time to the vessel to enter port on request from the ship's agent or the master of the vessel.

It should be pointed out that there has been a general lack of observance of the coastal fisheries protection regulations by foreign fishing vessels entering the port of St. John's.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that arrangements similar to those now proposed for St. John's were adopted for the port of Halifax some months ago. These arrangements have proved workable and satisfactory in Halifax, which has a larger number of vessels entering and clearing port, and we believe that similar arrangements can work satisfactorily for all concerned in the port of St. John's without in any way jeopardizing the economic benefits which the foreign fishing fleets contribute to the economy of the port.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.42 p.m.

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