

CLOSING OF PORTS TO RUSSIAN FISHING VESSELS—
POSSIBILITY OF SERVICING BY OTHER COUNTRIES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister received any indication from the government of France or the government of any other country which might service the Russian fishing fleet as to whether they will follow the Canadian example or undertake to service the Russian fleets which will now be denied access to Canadian east coast ports?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, the representative of the government of France was invited in and discussed this question with officials of the Department of External Affairs. He undertook to inform the Canadian government of any increase in the normal level of business at St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Speaking on the point on which my memory failed me, if I remember correctly, the hon. member was suggesting that the closure of the ports should have the effect of removing the fleets off our shores. That was never intended and that was never indicated in my statement, and it is totally irrelevant to the subject. Port closure is related directly to violation of ICNAF regulations.

PROPOSED REDUCTION OF ICNAF QUOTAS BY FORTY PER
CENT—POSITION OF CANADIAN QUOTAS

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State responsible for fisheries. In view of the unanimous support provided by this House to his negotiations for a 40 per cent decrease in international quotas on off-shore fishing grounds, will the minister explain to the House exactly the position in which that will leave our quotas vis-à-vis the quotas of the international fleet which have been involved in the negotiations?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. member for raising that question. After reading carefully the motion, which, unhappily, I received just as I was coming to the House, I realized that, inadvertently, the hon. member for St. John's East was talking about a 40 per cent reduction of quotas. We have asked ICNAF for a 40 per cent reduction in fishing effort by all nations, except Canada. We want to maintain the Canadian catch at its present level.

Mr. McCain: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the House to understand that the minister's position entails only the reduction of quotas for foreign fleets and no reduction of quotas for Canadian fleets?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I say to the hon. member, who I am sure supported the Canadian position at ICNAF last June and will support it at the coming meeting, that that is precisely the intent. The reduction would be to the foreign fleet's effort not to the Canadian fleet's.

Oral Questions

BASIS UPON WHICH ICNAF QUOTAS ESTABLISHED—
SUGGESTED INCREASE IN ALLOWABLE HADDOCK CATCH

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, mine is not a supplementary question. I have been hoping to ask it since Wednesday and it is directed to the Minister of State (Fisheries). Last week, five trawlers operating out of the port of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, reported that they dumped 94,000 pounds of prime haddock caught in excess of quota in a ten-day period. Will the minister inform the House if the quotas were established as a result of Canadian surveys, and by whom, or on information supplied by foreigners; and, since the present policy is not that of conserving haddock, will the minister immediately take steps to increase the allowable haddock catch, in order to prevent this unnecessary waste of fishing effort, money and food?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, my hearing aid is not working very well. I believe the hon. member was raising the question of fish discards. We have asked the representatives of the industry, mainly the large trawler operators who are most directly involved in these incidents, to meet with us. I know that the leader of this group was in Europe. I understand that officials are to meet him early next week. We want to find a solution, but we want a solution which will be equitable to all, primarily to small and medium sized boats which cannot travel as far offshore as can the larger trawlers involved in these incidents.

Mr. Crouse: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since 94,000 pounds of haddock were reported as having been dumped by five ships, and as more than 40 large trawlers operate out of Nova Scotia alone, not counting those operating from New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, the quantity of haddock being dumped must equal or surpass the landed volume. In light of this tremendous loss of prime food, will the minister take steps to permit all fish once caught by Canadian fishermen to be landed at Canadian ports until the 200-mile economic zone is either determined internationally or unilaterally by this government?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's suggestion is very appealing, but there is one serious disadvantage. It could re-open the whole area. This would mean that we do not recognize the ICNAF regulation and the quotas to which we have agreed. This could open the whole area to foreign fishing fleets, which is exactly what we are trying to avoid.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

USE OF CANADIAN ENGINEERS ON MAJOR PROJECTS IN
NORTHERN AREAS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and arises from discussions and exchange of correspondence between the minister and myself respecting the extent to which Canadian engineers will be used on major technical projects in the far north.