Inquiries of the Ministry

FISHERIES

ATLANTIC SALMON FISHERY CLOSURE—COMPENSATION TO FISHERMEN

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries—careful, George, my mike is open.

Mr. Hees: Saved again.

Mr. Crouse: In view of the statement by the president of the Southeast Fishermen's Association in New Brunswick that the salmon fishermen would start fishing operations by June 1 unless a common rate of compensation is paid to all fishermen, has the minister established a sound and acceptable proposal to cover the salmon fishermen's loss of time, fishing gear and income?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, discussions have been held with representatives of the fishermen's groups in the Maritime provinces and a formula has been struck which will be offered to fishermen individually in that area.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, would the minister give every assurance that he will deal directly with the fishermen themselves in the negotiations?

Mr. Davis: Yes, it is our intention to negotiate fisherman by fisherman and to reach a settlement on the form of compensation which I believe will be satisfactory to the fishermen.

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): My supplementary question is for the Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Speaker. Will all full-time fishermen who have been denied a licence to fish for salmon receive compensation from the department?

Mr. Davis: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

ATLANTIC SALMON FISHERY CLOSURE—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF COMPENSATION FORMULA

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Fisheries. If I heard him correctly, he made reference to a formula being struck which would form the basis for settlement with individual fishermen. Would the minister agree to table the formula in the House so that members can have an opportunity of examining it?

• (1510)

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, perhaps this evening, when the Fisheries and Forestry Committee meets on the subject of salmon, might be a more appropriate time and place to table it.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS

ADOPTION OF BILL 19 BY QUEBEC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY—STATEMENT OF MINISTER OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister.

When the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion stated in Joliette, during the weekend, that Quebec government Bill-19 should never have been accepted, was he expressing the views of the federal government, or was he speaking as a former labour leader?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of such a statement but if a provincial legislation is involved it is of course not subject to federal government policy, unless it were considered anticonstitutional, which I have no knowledge of.

Mr. Rondeau: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Could the right hon. Prime Minister nevertheless tell us whether the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion was expressing the views of the federal government when stating that Bill 19 should never have been accepted?

Mr. Trudeau: It is a matter, Mr. Speaker, of knowing what he did say and when the hon. member is quoting the word "accepted", I don't know what is involved. Accepted by whom?

[English]

HOUSING

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL ACTION TO KEEP DOWN INTEREST RATES ON MORTGAGES

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Does the government intend to take any measures to keep down interest rates for housing in addition to the new residential mortgage financing bill?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the measures introduced yesterday by way of a bill will assist in that endeavour.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

PLANS FOR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Mr. Allen B. Sulatycky (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, because the time is getting short and because many communities are planning to hold celebrations in conjunction with the centennial of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, can the Solicitor General advise when he will be announcing the plans of the federal government in that regard?