

## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### ONTARIO HYDRO SULPHUR DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact that the thermal power plants of Ontario Hydro, which currently has an application before the National Energy Board, already emit 410,000 tonnes of sulphur dioxide a year, can the minister tell the House what assurances Ontario Hydro has provided to him that future expansion will include adequate emission controls?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of the Environment and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Madam Speaker, Ontario Hydro has made commitments over the next ten years to reduce its sulphur dioxide emissions by well over 40 per cent of present levels. However, I have to say to the hon. member, in all frankness, that the recent efforts of Ontario Hydro to increase electricity exports to the United States in ways which will accentuate and exaggerate the sulphur dioxide problems, and its recent announcement that it would increase nitrous oxide emissions while reducing sulphur dioxide emissions, are statements which cause me very great concern. I think they are reprehensible and regrettable.

**Mr. Epp:** Gerry Regan didn't like that.

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## FISHERIES

### TASK FORCE DECISION NOT TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The head of the government task force on Atlantic fisheries, Mr. Kirby, recently stated that he would not hold public hearings. He also, of course, said that members of provincial governments were not the people to judge what is best for their constituents. But in any event he said that in his inquiries there would be no public hearings.

Is that a decision which has been approved by the government, and, if so, why? What has happened to the Liberal theme that it believed in open government and involving the people in a matter which concerns their very lifestyles and their incomes?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, the problem that Mr. Kirby has been asked to address basically, deals with the question of marketing and the question of processing capacity, whether or not there is excess capacity, and also fleet utilization, particularly the offshore fleet. Mr. Kirby was asked to bring in recommendations in sufficient time to arrive at some decisions, preferably before the summer break. He arrived at the conclusion, which I support, that this could be best done by a working group which would meet those who were principally interested in this area and that there should be as widespread consultation as

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possible. He will not turn what is a very clearly defined task into a royal commission hearing.

### FISHERMEN'S REPRESENTATION

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Madam Speaker, I am very intrigued by the minister's reply that Mr. Kirby is to come back with some answers by this summer. As the minister well knows, a cabinet document was supposedly to be completed in January so that the cabinet could make some decisions. However, in any event, the minister has confirmed that there will be no public hearings.

The object of Mr. Kirby's task force is to deal with the fisheries on the Atlantic coast. However, there is no one acting as a co-chairman who represents the fishermen, whether they be offshore or inshore. I would ask the minister whether he would explain to this House why the only other representative who serves as a co-chairman with Mr. Kirby is someone who comes from the management side of the fisheries industry. There is nothing wrong with that, but why are the people who do the fishing, making their livelihood and income from this industry, completely excluded from this commission?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, perhaps the hon. member would benefit by asking some questions before he repeats a canard which has been expressed in the media. To my knowledge Mr. Nicholson is not the vice-chairman of the task force. Second, I note that Mr. Kirby has approached a very senior representative of a fishermen's organization. I have not been told if Mr. Kirby has been successful in enlisting the participation of this individual or another one from that same organization. However, I know that one major fishermen's organization has been approached, and we are waiting for an answer.

### BARRIER TO SCALLOP TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Madam Speaker, I would like to ask a question, but I am not certain whether I should direct it to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce or to the Minister of State for International Trade. Perhaps, when they both hear the question, the proper minister will respond.

It is reported that the New England Fisheries Management Council has recommended a possession limit for scallops which would permit only exports across the United States border from Canada of scallops weighing 40 meats to the pound. I therefore ask the responsible minister, since this is an obvious attempt to limit trade, has any action been taken by the United States to establish this type of non-tariff trade barrier; if so, what action does he plan to take to "assist"—I guess that is the best word—Canada's \$60 million-plus scallop industry? Has he held any consultations with his counterpart in the United States State Department, and what will he do to help the Canadian fishermen retain their share of the U.S. market?