

quotation in an article. I said that the people working for that organization claim to have seen this memorandum. It will probably appear in articles tomorrow. It is a very serious issue. I would like the Leader of the Government to include this matter in his inquiries because it is a very serious one.

Senator Flynn: If you had put the question that way the first time it would have been more objective.

Senator Guay: The leader has spoken!

Senator Gigantès: It is an absolute delight to receive lessons in etiquette—

Senator Walker: Sit down!

Senator Gigantès: —from that great expert, Senator Flynn. I hope he will long be with us and continue to give us these examples and these precepts on how to behave in this honourable chamber. Nobody does it better.

Senator Stewart: Honourable senators, may I suggest to the Leader of the Government that it would be helpful to receive immediate replies in this matter. Fishermen get very unhappy when they think that anything untoward is being done with regard to access to fish stocks. Now that the old age pensioners are to have an easy summer, it would be nice if the fishermen, too, could have the same, assured that nothing untoward has happened in this entire situation.

Senator Roblin: I think the fishermen will probably have one of the easiest summers they have had for some time. My honourable friend will recognize that problems with respect to the allocation of fishing rights did not suddenly develop yesterday or the day before, that they have been around for a long time. I am sure that my honourable friend, with his undoubted experience in this field, can recollect many occasions on which there have been serious differences of opinion among fishermen as to what should be done with respect to their industry. I can assure him that the present government will do its best as, I presume, its predecessor did, to deal with all those issues fairly and as expeditiously as he can.

Senator Stewart: Honourable senators, I press my request for an urgent reply. Senator Roblin says that the fishermen using different types of gear quarrel over allocations of stock. That, of course, is obvious; we can assume that it will continue. The fishermen understand that; they are very smart people. What they find offensive is any suggestion that someone is getting a licence improperly, whether it be a crab licence, a lobster licence or, in the good old days, a salmon licence, or getting improperly the right to transfer a licence from one craft to another. I am not suggesting that there has been any impropriety by the minister in this instance. I am saying to the Leader of the Government that it would be helpful if this entire matter could be clarified within a day or two. I am sure that he could achieve that if he put his mind to it.

Senator Roblin: I am glad to hear my honourable friend's assurance that he is not making any allegation of improper conduct. That is an advance over what we have heard from some other quarters and I thank him for that observation. I can tell him that I am sure that the Minister of Fisheries and

[Senator Gigantès.]

Oceans is just as anxious as anybody else to get this matter disposed of as speedily as possible.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

ALLEGED ABSENCE OF MINISTER FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Hon. Hazen Argue: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. It is based on a *Winnipeg Free Press* news report of a couple of weeks ago to the effect that the advisory committee to the Canadian Wheat Board criticized the present minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board for not attending at least some or a number of their meetings after being invited. In the past it has been a practice for the minister and/or his representatives to attend meetings of the advisory committee of the Canadian Wheat Board from time to time. I think it is a good practice because the minister hears from the farmers' elected advisory representatives and from the Canadian Wheat Board. They hear from the minister, and I think it is a very useful exchange. I wonder whether the government leader would comment on that news report. I would appreciate hearing his views. I think the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board might be well advised to attend meetings between the Canadian Wheat Board and its advisory committee from time to time.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I have not seen the newspaper report, but even if I had I would not comment upon it because it is not part of my duties. I can tell my honourable friend that the Honourable Charles Mayer, the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board is, in my opinion, one of the most zealous ministers in the administration. If he were missing from a meeting, it would not be because of any ill-will or lack of interest, but because other responsibilities at the time had made it impossible. I suggest to my honourable friend that over time the attendance record of my colleague, the Honourable Charles Mayer, at the wheat board advisory committee meetings will be good.

Senator Argue: I appreciate the latter part of the leader's comments.

Hon. David Walker: Honourable senators, on a point of order, we are trying to clean up our business and this man makes a speech every time he gets up. What does this have to do with the Question Period?

Senator Frith: Order.

Senator Argue: It is not the first speech that has been made this afternoon.

I think the Leader of the Government in the Senate is in a position to convey messages. He has said that the minister's record will be good. The information I have is that the minister has been to one meeting since he was appointed, that the advisers are upset, that the producers do not like it and that the word is getting around on the prairies that the current minister is ignoring the Canadian Wheat Board and is not as supportive of the marketing system—

Senator Flynn: As his predecessor.