

Oral Questions

Mr. Deans: That is right.

Mr. Lumley:—and the Government took action six months ago. I do not understand what the Hon. Member is basing his question on.

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FISHERIES**PROPOSED UNITED STATES RESTRICTION ON IMPORTATION OF CANADIAN SCALLOPS**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans I am not certain whether I should direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, but perhaps one of these gentlemen will answer it. At the present time the count for scallops exported from Canada to the United States is 40 meats to the pound. On this basis the scallop industry alone last year was worth \$88 million to Canada.

Since the Canadian industry will be devastated if the Americans follow through with their proposal to limit scallop imports to 30 meats to the pound on May 15, which is not very far away, I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he is aware of the situation. If so, has he taken any steps whatsoever to encourage the Americans to accept the Canadian counterproposal of allowing us to ship into the United States 35 meats to the pound?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I want to be frank and tell the Hon. Member that I am not aware of this particular problem. I will examine it immediately.

Mr. Crouse: I simply want to emphasize what I have stated. If the proposal to limit imports from Canada to 30 meats to the pound is implemented by the United States, Canada will no longer have a viable scallop fishery.

BARRIER TO TRADE

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, since many Canadians consider that the American proposal is actually a non-tariff barrier to trade between our two countries, will the Minister discuss the matter with his United States counterpart in the hope of resolving this important issue?

● (1440)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I have on a number of occasions raised these questions with my counterpart in the United States. I have certainly raised the proposed investigation by the American tariff authorities into fisheries importations into the United States from Canada. I

raised that question as a matter of concern, expressing our view that it is unnecessary for the Government of the United States to undertake a further investigation as to whether countervail is justified against fishery products because of previous investigations that have been undertaken which have proved that the case could not be made. Therefore, I will have no hesitation of raising this and other fishery matters with the Secretary of State for the United States.

RESTRUCTURING OF EAST COAST FISHING INDUSTRY

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. The Government's failure to reach a decision on restructuring of the Atlantic fishing industry is costing thousands of jobs, including jobs in the Minister's own constituency. Why has the Government not reached a decision on restructuring, and fleet management and replacement, both of which are critical to the Atlantic Provinces and the Atlantic fishing industry?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is no doubt aware that the Government has given a negotiating mandate to Mr. Kirby to hold discussions with the Provinces, the industry, and all interested parties. That negotiation is under way at the present time, as I understand it. It will be our intention to reach a decision as quickly as possible when the negotiations take a form that it will be possible for Mr. Kirby to report to the Government, the ad hoc committee, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION**COMPETING WITH WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS FOR ADVERTISING REVENUE**

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Canada Post. I am sure the Minister is aware that Postmasters in small communities are now selling advertising in flyers to be printed and distributed by the Post Office to all those who receive mail. This is having a detrimental effect on the weekly newspapers in these small communities which rely on advertising dollars to sustain themselves. Why is the Post Office moving in this direction in direct competition with the small weekly newspapers, by selling advertising in flyers? What is the Minister going to do about it?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I shall raise this matter with the President of the Canada Post Corporation, after which I shall give the Hon. Member my answer.