

Oral Questions

from the United States and we have replied. As far as apologizing for the Government of Manitoba or the suggestion that the Government of Manitoba apologized, I do not think there is any objection to tabling the contents of the note, the answer to the United States, in the House and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition will be able to see and judge for himself, and not try to exaggerate the impact of this occurrence and treat it as something that is best forgotten.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: I am glad that there is a willingness to table Canada's response to the note of the United States.

REQUEST THAT PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE BE
TABLED

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Will the Government also table the apology of which the Parliamentary Secretary spoke, which came from the Government of Manitoba to the Government of Canada?

[Translation]

Mr. Jean Lapierre (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I did not say the Government of Manitoba apologized. I think the contents of the note will be self-explanatory.

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[English]

FISHERIES

ATLANTIC SALMON STOCK—INTERCEPTION BY DANISH
FISHERMEN

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I wish to direct my question to the Right Hon. Prime Minister, because I know that he does have an interest in catching salmon.

Mr. Nowlan: Or any kind of fish.

Mr. Crouse: In light of the statement which has been made by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans that the harvest of Atlantic salmon will be reduced this year in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland, but not in Quebec, I would like to know what steps the Government is taking to increase surveillance over poachers in the entire Atlantic salmon industry, including the catch taken by the Danes off Greenland, whose interception of Canadian salmon may well be the main cause of the decline in Atlantic salmon stocks. Will the Right Hon. Prime Minister take up this question, which is of very great importance to Atlantic Canada, with the Danish ambassador?

Mr. Brian Tobin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to respond to the Hon. Member opposite. I want to assure him, on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, that the Minister and the Government are placing great emphasis on revitalizing, conserving and rebuilding the Atlantic salmon stocks. Indeed, we are concerned about the interception problem and it has been taken into consideration.

I want to assure the Hon. Member that any reduction in quota, which may be experienced anywhere in Atlantic Canada, of salmon or other stock, is a result of the best biological and objective evidence we can be given by our officials, and that the Minister is, as is the Hon. Member, very interested in preserving both the commercial and the sport side of the salmon fishery in Atlantic Canada.

• (1500)

REQUEST FOR STOCK ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, I thank the Parliamentary Secretary for his answer. Unfortunately, he did not answer the question. My question was directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister and I was asking him if he would take up the matter of interception of our Canadian salmon by the Danes off the coast of Greenland. This is a matter that does come under External Affairs and concerns the Right Hon. Prime Minister.

In light of the obvious decline of salmon stocks in Atlantic Canada, when may we anticipate from the Prime Minister's Government a truly meaningful Atlantic salmon enhancement program being established?

Mr. Brian Tobin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I want to assure the hon. gentleman opposite that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and indeed the Government, take very seriously our relationships with respect to other nations and fishing treaties, whether they concern salmon off the West Coast, salmon off the East Coast, scallop off the United States, or indeed cod-stocks as far as the EC is concerned.

The Hon. Member opposite, being a member of the Fisheries Committee, knows that the Government of Canada has recently instituted a policy, particularly in fisheries, which says that we will treat our brother and sister nations according to how they respect the treaties we have signed with regard to various stocks. He knows that we have taken very strong and serious stands, in particular with the EEC for example.

Again, I would say that it would be much too simplistic to say that the Danes are the cause and the sole reason for the depletion of the salmon stock in Atlantic Canada. We have to get our own house in order. We are beginning to do that. With the support of the Hon. Member opposite we will see positive results in the next few years.