

realization of the serious strength of Germany of that day and followed the course of the ostrich with its head in the sand.

● (1452)

It would be worth having a day set aside by the government to discuss this matter fully and completely, so that at least parliament would know exactly the position; because it could be too late if appropriate action is not taken. If, on the other hand, such an open discussion—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker, the best place for this debate to take place in a reasonable fashion would be before the Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, where I have appeared whenever I have been asked. It would be very helpful, as guidance to me, to have the right hon. gentleman there, whose position is obviously different from that of the defence critic of his party.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR EMPLOYEES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. In view of the fact that following the tabling of the report of the special committee on the public service in February, 1967, ministers from time to time assured us that consideration was being given to the recommendation that there be collective bargaining for employees on Parliament Hill, can the Deputy Prime Minister tell us the stage of that consideration at the present time? Will there soon be legislation granting to these employees the same rights that we have granted to so many others?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there will not be legislation on that subject, certainly not in this session of parliament. It is my expectation that possibly at the next session or, indeed, in the new parliament, I will be bringing in an over-all measure.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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FISHERIES

DISCUSSION OF FISHING BOUNDARIES WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. I should like to ask the Prime Minister if, by any chance, when he was in Washington he thought to raise with the President of the United States a very important question regarding the

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defence of Canadian fishing interests, namely, negotiations on the extension of our boundaries out to 200 miles and the related fishing question. If he did raise this question, would he give us some indication of the response?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I had occasion to talk briefly to President Carter on this subject, although, as the hon. member would suspect, there was not a lot of time on the agenda for this type of discussion. For that reason, we agreed to defer to our ministers of external affairs, Mr. Vance and Mr. Jamieson, who did discuss the matter at greater length. There was a report in cabinet this morning in the presence of the Minister of Fisheries and the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Minister of Fisheries is now taking under advisement the information we brought back.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, in view of that report, which could be encouraging and which could not be encouraging because we do not know what the results were, and without asking anyone to reveal what was passed around in cabinet, I wonder if the Secretary of State for External Affairs took the opportunity when he was in Washington to discuss with another important influence in Washington, namely, some of his parliamentary colleagues in Congress—those key people who are expected to ratify the agreement—the same matter, and whether he had any concrete results.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I did not speak with any congressional leaders on this question.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Shame on you.

Mr. Jamieson: The hon. member said, "Shame on you." I am not sure if he would feel the same way if the American cabinet ministers were to come up here and lobby some of our people. That is one consideration. But I have to say, at the same time, there was nothing lost in that regard. The conversations with Secretary of State Vance were very comprehensive. I undertake to indicate to the House at the earliest possible moment the outcome of those conversations and what steps will be taken.

PROGRESS REPORT ON CANADA-U.S. NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING FISHING BOUNDARIES

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is related to the question that has been asked and I direct it to the hon. Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. In view of the fact that in 1977 the United States set the total allowable catch for cod and haddock at 20,000 and 6,000 metric tonnes, respectively, in Georges Bank—a 40 per cent increase, in effect, on both species—which contravenes section 8 of the 1977 interim agreement, and they also increased their pollock catch by 3,000 metric tonnes and the scallop catch by 180 per cent in one year, would the Minister of Fisheries, since neither the Prime Minister nor the minister for external affairs seem to have the answer, give the House an up to date report on the progress being made in resolving the Canada-U.S.