

glad to refer to the Standing Committee on Fisheries the matter to which the hon. member has referred.

LEGISLATION TO PROTECT INSHORE FISHERY

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Can he indicate when he will be introducing his promised legislation to close the Gulf of St. Lawrence, especially along the great northern peninsula of Newfoundland, to foreign druggers in order to protect the inshore fishing industry in that area?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that legislation to do that could be introduced in the current session.

OPERATIONS OF SOVIET TRAWLERS NEAR LOUISBOURG

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. In view of reports that a large Russian fleet, numbering 90 to 100 ships, is operating some four miles off the coast near Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, would the minister inform the House what types of fish these ships are catching and what steps he is taking to protect our inshore fisheries resources?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, all of the fishing vessels operating off the coast in that area have been under close surveillance by the Canadian authorities and I am informed that there are no foreign vessels within 12 miles of our coast. There may be some Canadian vessels operating in the area.

TRADE

DECLINE IN BALANCE—INQUIRY AS TO ACTION

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the serious decline in Canada's foreign trade balance as revealed by figures issued during the last few weeks, what steps, if any, has the minister taken or is prepared to take in order to correct this situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that this question should be answered by way of a statement on motions.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Harkness: Then, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether he will make a statement on motions dealing with this very serious problem?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, at the moment there are many things being done. For example, the strengthening of the Export Development Corporation—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The only question which has been allowed is whether the minister will make a statement on motions. He may seek the consent of the House for the purpose of returning to motions so that he can make a statement. That course is available to him.

Mr. Pepin: I was just going to point out that the question was asked of me two days ago by a colleague of the hon. member, and that I am writing a letter to him in order to put all the steps down on paper. The hon. member who will receive the letter will probably want to, or want me to publish it because it will be so interesting.

Mr. Harkness: That was a different question.

[*Translation*]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

BILINGUAL DISTRICTS—PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN AREAS

Mr. Gaétan-J. Serré (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State a question relating to the implementation of the official languages bill.

Could he tell the house whether the Bilingual Districts Advisory Board has begun or will soon begin its study and whether those areas where there is a large concentration of both linguistic groups will be dealt with first?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the Bilingual Districts Advisory Board is being established. As regards its decision as to whether districts with a larger or a smaller concentration should be dealt with first, I think it is up to the Board itself to make its own decisions.

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State.

Concerning this important problem of bilingualism, I should like to ask him if his policy provides for the labelling of all products in both official languages?

Mr. Speaker: I think this supplementary question should be put on the order paper.