

Oral Questions

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have only one question today. It relates to—

An hon. Member: Order.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, could we have silence in this House? My colleagues on your right are charitable people, but they sometimes take the liberty of disturbing hon. members who ask serious questions, as I am doing now, and I do not like this. I respect other hon. members, so they should respect me in return.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Then, my point of order is as follows: since the question I asked the minister deals with the fact that indeed there are problems—I do not blame anyone for that, but there are problems—with the feed grains which are now stored in the east, and since it is impossible to ship them in sufficient quantities, I ask the minister whether he can assure the House that these feed grains will meet domestic needs before being exported to outside markets.

Mr. Speaker: I regret, but I still insist that this question is identical to the one asked by another hon. member at the beginning of the oral question period.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): What was the answer?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Earlier in the question period the hon. member for St. John's West directed a question to the Minister of Fisheries. The minister undertook to answer as soon as possible. I have received an indication that the minister is now prepared to answer that question, and his answer will probably bring the question period to a close.

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FISHERIES

INVESTIGATION OF ICNAF QUOTA VIOLATIONS—
GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, in answering the question of the hon. member for St. John's West, may I inform the House that five boardings of Russian fishing vessels have taken place by fisheries officers travelling on the *Annapolis* acting as a designated ship in the last two or three days. No violations were found and the ship is now moving off Cape Freels, where there is a heavy concentration of fishing vessels, to continue inspection and boardings.

● (1520)

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF ICNAF QUOTAS BY BRITISH
FISHING VESSELS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of State (Fisheries) on that particular point. According to the International Commission for the North Atlantic Fisheries, ICNAF, fishermen operating on Brown's and Georges Banks have a zero quota on an endangered species, had-

dock. However, the crew of the American coastguard cutter *Vigorous* recently boarded six British stern trawlers, namely the *Marbella*, the *Seafridge-Skua*, the *Farnella*, the *Coriolanus*, the *Northbella* and the *Southbella*, and found all of them having catches vastly in excess of the amount permitted. In fact, one had 130 tons of haddock out of a total of 135 tons. Has the minister or any official of his department made representations to the British government to see if they intend to continue violating ICNAF regulations?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to look into this matter and hopefully have an answer for tomorrow's question period. I do not question the hon. member's word, but if the allegations are correct, this is a matter which we would find intolerable.

SUGGESTED PAYMENT BY DEPARTMENT FOR USE OF NAVAL
VESSELS AS PATROL SHIPS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I will make my question to the Minister of State (Fisheries) in the form of a supplication or request. In this most worthwhile and useful exercise of utilizing vessels of the Canadian armed forces, will the minister's department undertake to pay the underpaid and under-funded Canadian armed forces, particularly maritime command, for the fuel they use so we can get on with some training from time to time?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, that is a most valid suggestion. I hope the hon. member will support me when I go to treasury board for supplementary estimates.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to rise on a point of order or question of privilege, but I do so because there is some immediacy and urgency involved. If I did not raise this matter, it could result in a meat shortage in retail outlets in the Toronto and Hamilton areas. Because of a back-up in the deliveries of meat products from packing plants and food terminals in the Toronto and Hamilton areas that is being caused as a result of federally employed meat inspectors walking off their jobs yesterday, and as of an hour and a half ago were still not back to work, I wish to bring this to the attention of the President of the Treasury Board. Can the minister assure the House he will take immediate steps to terminate this illegal walk-out before it becomes an illegal strike? Canadians are getting fed up with the fact that illegal strikes are being taken for granted by this government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I agree with the hon. member when he says that meat inspectors do not have the right to strike and that immediate action should be taken to make them understand the situation and penalize them if necessary. Some civil servants have the right to strike, but as regards those designated employees who must stay on the job to