

Mr. BARNETT: I did have a few questions in a somewhat different area. My question has to do with the claim of the United States fishermen to historic fishing rights in waters off the west coast of Canada where, I understand, any question of treaty does not enter into the picture directly. I am wondering whether the committee could receive in some detail the pattern setting out the period of time over which the United States has in fact fished in those waters, and whether there has been continuous fishing by the United States in such waters as the Hecate strait and Queen Charlotte sound?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): You might ask Mr. Ozere that question.

Mr. BARNETT: I have heard it suggested that there was a period when Canada did take some action, which was successful, to prevent the United States fishermen from fishing in those waters. I would like to receive a more definite picture than we have had in the committee up to now.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Perhaps you could ask Mr. Ozere this question. You are referring to the Hecate strait, I understand. That is a question which should be asked of Mr. Ozere. He will want to bear in mind the nature of the negotiations where it applies.

Mr. HOWARD: I think there is no need to indicate that to Mr. Ozere; he is well aware of it.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I know; I just want to make doubly sure.

Mr. BARNETT: I want to make it clear that my point is not to attempt to probe into the negotiations, but what I would like to have is a factual statement of what has actually happened and when, in respect of those fisheries.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. MACLEAN (*Queens*): I have one brief question. I realize that perhaps I am in a delicate area, and I am not trying to put the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the spot, although it would be difficult to do so, I think. I think that in reply to a question in the house, if I recall properly, either the Secretary of State or the Minister of Trade and Commerce said that the question of the possibility of the United States taking any retaliatory action in the way of duties or quotas on Canadian fish was not discussed.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I am not sure I said that. I said I was satisfied that that would not take place. I think Mr. Crouse was the one who raised the question, and one of the considerations involved in the government's attitude with regard to the United States historic and treaty rights was that we would certainly not want to take any action that would encourage retaliatory action.

Mr. MACLEAN (*Queens*): Exactly. Has there been an assurance from the United States that they do not contemplate any such action?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): No.

Mr. MACLEAN (*Queens*): This would seem to me a little dangerous. Perhaps they are reserving their right to do this in the future.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): No one can tell what a government will do. That is something in the future. I am satisfied that in so far as the executive arm of the government of the United States is concerned, that that is not in the cards.

Mr. MACLEAN (*Queens*): I do not want to put words in your mouth, but are you reasonably satisfied that the United States government at this time has not at the back of its mind a reservation regarding the right to take some action along these lines in the future as a retaliation or compensation?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): That is my view.

Mr. BASFORD: We have established evidence in your statement and in Mr. Robichaud's statement that the government will probably be issuing a series