

Supply—Fisheries

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I shall be very delighted to look into the situation, which was probably left by my predecessor.

GRAINREQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON DELIVERY
QUOTA SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. A. Tucker (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is he prepared at some date in the near future to make a statement in regard to the delivery quota situation with respect to grain in the various prairie provinces?

Two days ago it was suggested that this question be put on the order paper, and the reason I am asking the question at this time is that I accepted a somewhat similar suggestion on November 22 with regard to an important question like this and I still have not received an answer. Therefore, coupled with the question I have now directed to the minister, I would ask him if I could reasonably hope to receive an answer some time in the near future to the question I asked on November 22, to be found on page 19 of the orders of the day.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, hope springs eternal. The estimates of this department will be up for discussion in the course of a very few days. Perhaps my hon. friend would like to raise the question then and I will have an answer for him.

Mr. Tucker: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the house to take it that if this information can be made available to the house it will be held up until the minister's estimates are brought down?

Mr. Churchill: No, Mr. Speaker.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Courtemanche in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

General services—

139. Departmental administration, \$319,700.

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Chairman, just a moment ago I had handed to me a copy of the *Chatham Daily News* which contains an item to the effect that in Tokyo several housewives screamed and fainted in the fish market when a fish seller cut open a shark and found the partly decomposed body of a man inside. I just express the hope that such sharks are not found in proximity to Canadian shores.

[Mr. Robichaud.]

We are now discussing and reviewing the estimates of the Department of Fisheries, the activities of which department are of vital concern to the people of British Columbia including many of my own constituents. In opening my remarks I wish to express to the Minister of Fisheries my appreciation of his courtesy in inviting the members of parliament from Vancouver and the surrounding area to an informal meeting in that city shortly after the minister assumed office. This meeting gave us an opportunity to become better acquainted with the minister himself and to discuss our problems in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

We are pleased with the sympathetic consideration that is being given by the minister and his officials to all the problems that are brought to his attention, and we are looking forward to a continuation of that attitude on his part throughout the days ahead. I wish to assure him that to the fullest extent possible we will co-operate with him in an endeavour to resolve these problems which are of concern to each and every one of us.

The hon. member for New Westminster will participate in this debate and perhaps will go into greater detail than I with respect to some of the problems that will be presented. We regret very much that the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond will not be here to participate in this debate. He is vitally concerned about these issues, but he has been in hospital for some time and is still hospitalized.

Some time ago questions were raised on orders of the day relative to the importation of Japanese salmon into Canadian markets, and also with respect to the marking of the labels on these particular products to distinguish them from purely Canadian products. This brought into focus one of the issues that are becoming increasingly important, the activities of the Japanese fishing fleets on the high seas; and questions have been raised with regard to this as well.

One question has been raised by some fishermen, and I ask the minister and his officials to investigate the matter. It is the question of the ownership of this fishing fleet and whether or not Canadians, or Canadian companies, may have investments in those vessels or in the activities of the fleet. I think this would bear some study because if it is so, or if it is not so—I will put it that way—then possibly it would allay some of the fears and doubts which are in the minds of some of our fishermen on the west coast of British Columbia.

I should like at this time once more to raise the question of the closure regulations as they affect the Fraser river between the