

*Oral Questions*

during the day? Will the minister follow the lead of the Minister of Finance and accept at least the responsibility for paying the cost of that Hyatt Regency guest reception?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Secretary of State):** Madam Speaker, I was not sure to what the hon. member was leading with his first question.

**An hon. Member:** Now you know.

**Mr. Regan:** I am most reluctant to spoil his fun, but I point out that the Government of Canada for the last five years, including the government with which the hon. member was associated, has been supportive of Grey Cup week. It has done that because of the fact that the Grey Cup probably constitutes the only unique national over-all sports event in this country. From the unity point of view it is extremely important for Canada. I hope the hon. member shares with me the pride that I feel in the 2,000 young Canadians who participated in the half-time show, a rather magnificent half-time show, during the Grey Cup game on Sunday.

● (1440)

I want to say further to the hon. member that the funds he refers to, which I think were utilized in promoting a very great and important Canadian event, were not funds that came from the Department of Fitness and Amateur Sport. As I gather was the case in other years, the financing of what I consider to be very worth-while expenditures was undertaken by the Canadian Unity Information Office.

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**FISHERIES**

## RECOMMENDATIONS ON TRANSFERABILITY OF LICENCES

**Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. In the past two years the minister has received two significant reports. One is the Levelton report entitled "Toward an Atlantic Coast Commercial Fisheries Licensing System" and the other is the Pearse report on the west coast fishing industry. The Levelton report indicates that speculation in licences constitutes one element of over-capitalization and that if some control over ownership is to be exercised, open transfer simply cannot be permitted. Dr. Pearse takes the opposite point of view. He adopts the view that "transferability permits flexible reallocation of the fishing privileges among those who can gain the most value from them which—"

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please, the hon. member should ask a question, not quote at such length.

**Mr. Miller:** Madam Speaker, has the minister now adopted a policy that will reflect the view of either Levelton or Pearse, and specifically, is he going to maintain the same transferability privileges that exist now, or will some attempt be made to

limit transferability and compensate those who have already invested heavily in licences?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, the problem with inheriting situations is that you have to live with that realistically and you cannot take ideological stances. In certain provinces licences are not transferable at all. There is no value attached to them. They disappear with the holder. In other provinces they have been the subject of speculation. Dr. Pearse addressed this issue. He will appear before the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry tomorrow, and I hope hon. members will have the chance to sound him out on why he came to certain conclusions. I do not think I would want to prejudge his conclusions before I have had the views of Parliament and of the industry, which I hope to have in the next eight or ten days.

## REQUEST THAT FISHERMEN BE CONSULTED ON PROPOSED LANDING TAX

**Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni):** Madam Speaker, I appreciate the comment that the minister will review the recommendations in the Pearse report. Another recommendation which will impact very heavily on the fishing industry is the attempt by Pearse to overcome those privileges by putting royalties on profits to the private sector so that the public will accrue some benefit.

In view of the difficulty that the fishing industry is experiencing right now in terms of meeting its expenses, I should like to ask the minister whether he will defer, for the time being, at least until he has an opportunity to confer in depth with the industry, any recommendation made by Pearse on a landing tax to fishermen? Will the minister guarantee the fishermen and this House that they will have full consultation before any precipitous step is taken on taxing fish landings to the fishermen?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Yes, Madam Speaker, there will be full consultation. Certainly the hon. member would not want me to arrive at a conclusion before these consultations have taken place.

## QUERY RESPECTING DETAILS OF PROPOSED CONSULTATION

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Madam Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. He has just said that he would not want the hon. member to arrive at a conclusion until these discussions have taken place. I am speaking now of the interim recommendations of the Pearse report.

I should like to know from the minister how these discussions will take place. For instance, the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union will appear before the committee for a couple of hours, and Dr. Pearse will appear before the committee for an hour or two. What other discussions are taking place?