

An hon. Member: Shame!

Mr. Nowlan: Shame on the government for sitting on its seat. My question is this: Will the minister please check with the various parties to ascertain whether more than 100 substantive items are still outstanding and make a report to the House and to the people of Canada tomorrow on what is holding up settlement of this dispute involving a Crown corporation that receives more money from the taxpayers than any other in Canada?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be appropriate for a minister to give a daily account on motions of negotiations between a Crown agency and its employees. The answer to the hon. member, therefore, is no, unless new developments occur.

• (1450)

[English]

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Secretary of State whether he would follow the suggestion made by the Quebec vice-president of the CBC to the president and urge the president to enter into the negotiations himself with some authority so that this dispute can be brought to an early conclusion?

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FISHERIES

DECLINE IN CATCHES OF CERTAIN SPECIES—TALKS WITH RUSSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES ON CONSERVATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF RESOURCES

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the significant decline in the Canadian catch of haddock, redfish, codfish and herring brought about by the overfishing of these species by the Russian, German and Polish fleets on our continental shelf, has the minister held any talks recently with these countries, and specifically with his counterpart in the U.S.S.R., concerning the necessity of carrying out conservation measures with respect to the groundfish resources on our continental shelf?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs I have made statements of this kind, but my colleague, the Minister of the Environment, has had direct talks and of course is urging upon them the desirability of conservation measures that will be adequate to preserve these species.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct one supplementary question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the decline by approximately one-third in the catch of some of these species, would the minister table in the House the fruits of his discussions with the Russians on this important matter?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I believe a release was made yesterday of the results of our

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negotiations with the other 13 nations in the Commission for the North Atlantic fisheries. It dealt with herring. Herring stocks are being depleted. We have established quotas for the first time, international agreements on quotas in international waters, which will help, with amendments, in time.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask one further supplementary question. Have quotas—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member, but I have to point out to hon. members that we are again running short of time.

Mr. Crouse: Just one brief supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I realize that a statement on herring was tabled yesterday, but my question related to the main resource of codfish on the Grand Banks. Have any quotas been established between Canada and the countries I mentioned for codfish in particular?

Mr. Davis: Not yet, Mr. Speaker, but we are working on one species at a time. The principle has now been established. For the first time all 14 nations have agreed on over-all quotas and division of quotas in international waters.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF STANBURY-FIELDS REPORT

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I understand the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development would like somebody to ask him a question. Will he take deliberate steps himself to table in the House the Stanbury-Fields report on taxation of Indians in British Columbia?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we cannot publish this report because we would need the consent of the government of British Columbia and the hon. member for Skeena probably has better relations with that government than myself.

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[English]

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEE AND CHANGE STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed either to the President of the Privy Council or to the Minister of Justice. Would either of the two ministers advise the House when it is the intention to bring forward the resolution to establish the committee on statutory instruments and also the resolution with regard to the change to be made in the Standing Orders of the House to give effect to the operations of that committee?