

Mr. Speaker, we have been speaking about sovereignty and fishing rights for a long time in this House. In my opinion, the government could have unveiled today a more realistic and specific approach to be proposed at that important international meeting.

Mr. Speaker, we note in the statement that the government does not discuss the possibility of making breeding ponds available to Canadian fishermen when we know, according to statistics, that they have always been unable to compete against imports in that field. Last year, Canadian imports from Denmark amounted to \$37 million, while our exports to that country totalled \$15 million. We therefore suffered a trade deficit of \$22 million solely for fisheries.

We trust that the minister will alter his proposed plan at that international meeting, because Canadian fishermen are faced with tremendous problems.

In 1969, I saw in the Gaspé region five foreign fishing ships which, in the space of a few hours, took all the fish from the fishermen of that area. In a few hours, these ships stole the incomes of the Gaspé fishermen, and this, with a permit from the federal government. All that the fishermen did, was to take out their shotguns and shoot at the fishing boats which stood at anchor about one mile from the Gaspé shores. This is all the protection that the Minister of Fisheries was then granting to the Gaspé fishermen.

That is why I was then shocked by the situation of fisheries, in Canada. In my view, the minister, today, while expressing good wishes, was not specific enough when he said that he could propose a valid solution for Canadian fishermen.

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[English]

WAR CLAIMS

TABLING OF REPORT OF WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION, WORLD WAR II

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2) I wish to table, in both official languages, the report of the War Claims Commission, World War II, signed by Mr. Thane A. Campbell, Chief War Claims Commissioner.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

FINANCE

CONTROL OVER PUBLIC EXPENDITURES—SUGGESTED ISSUANCE OF INSTRUCTIONS BASED ON AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the right hon. Prime Minister. In light of the statements contained in the report of the Auditor General for the 1970-71 fiscal year with regard to the continuing dangerous deterioration of parliamentary control over public expenditures through such devices as

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expenditure of moneys not spent in the preceding year, the use of the contingency fund carryover, legislating by estimates and other similar arrangements, will the government cease and desist from these practices and will instructions be issued to members of cabinet and to government departments that these practices must be discontinued?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the House would agree that it would be better for the House itself to give such instructions if it feels that they are warranted. For that very reason the government House leader will later today give notice that he wants this report to be brought before the parliamentary committee at a very early date.

• (1440)

Mr. Baldwin: That brings me to my next question. As this statement is a repetition of a similar statement in the previous auditor general's report and as there are now approximately 40 recommendations by the Public Accounts Committee which the government has either rejected or neglected, will the government find some very early way and time for the House to debate these very serious situations?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I hope very much that the Public Accounts Committee, to which I have just referred, will use all diligence to examine this report which is always very helpful to the government.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): This is a matter for the House.

Mr. Baldwin: I asked the Prime Minister about a debate in the House; as he does not want to reply, I give him notice that we will be debating this subject tomorrow.

Mr. Trudeau: Tomorrow? Very well.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—REMISSIONS TO COMPANIES UNDER MACHINERY PROGRAM—ALLEGED FAILURE TO REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question emanating from the same report. In the absence of the Minister of Finance may I address a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce arising out of a statement in the Auditor General's report that a number of remissions to companies under the machinery program of the minister's department, totalling over \$71 million in the year 1970-71, were not reported individually to parliament as required by section 17 of the Financial Administration Act. I ask the minister to inform the House what the reason is for the failure to make such reports as required by law?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I will have to look into the matter on which the hon. member requests information and give a proper answer tomorrow.