

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the transcript of the proceedings referred to, but I understand that press reports of those proceedings are not completely accurate. The government of course is always considering the magnitude, strength and proper distribution of our trade force abroad; this matter is under constant review.

Mr. Schreyer: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I point out to hon. members that we are short of time.

Mr. Schreyer: Mr. Speaker, I feel I have a valid point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member might be allowed to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Schreyer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister from Saskatoon-Humboldt has indicated that press reports in this connection may not be accurate. I attended the hearings and heard the Chairman of the Wheat Board make certain pronouncements. Therefore, the minister's observations about press reports are irrelevant. I ask the minister again, is the government taking under active consideration the specific proposition I referred to?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must bring to the attention of the hon. member that in my view in some of the questions which have been asked there seems to be a reference to the work of the committee, which has not yet reported. It is contrary to the rules to discuss evidence taken before a committee before that committee has reported.

FISHERIES**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PRECEDING DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and arises from a statement he made in the house earlier today. Since payments under the deficiency payments program announced by the minister will not be available to fishermen until the end of the season, will the government make operating capital available to fishermen at the beginning of the season so that they will not have to enter into barter agreements with buyers.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Schreyer.]

However, I know the hon. member is aware of the loans which have been made available to a number of other fish processing companies in his province and elsewhere.

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I view of the financial crisis of 1968 it will be impossible for fishermen to go to the fishing grounds unless they receive interim financing. I do not see why that cannot be worked out.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a question.

IMPLEMENTATION OF 12 MILE EXCLUSIVE ZONE

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Since the matter is of great importance to the B.C. fishing industry may I ask the minister whether, before the house adjourns for the summer, amending legislation will be introduced affecting the established twelve mile limit extending from headland to headland in order to protect B.C. fishermen in waters off the Queen Charlotte Islands and in the Queen Charlotte Sound.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, legislation to that effect is under consideration.

[Later:]

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question supplementary to that asked by my colleague from Vancouver East, and directed to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the fact that a few weeks ago the minister announced that he planned to have the 12-mile fishing limit delineated from headland to headland, I ask him when will this be implemented? Secondly, does he intend to introduce the legislation dealing with the Queen Charlotte Islands prior to the summer adjournment?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the co-ordinates, in other words, the latitudes and longitudes defining the base lines along most of Canada's coast, will be published within the next two weeks. There are several gaps left, such as the gap at Queen Charlotte Sound, and it will be necessary to amend the existing legislation to deal with that particular matter. This is a matter of scheduling legislation and I must defer to the House Leader in this connection.