

Government Orders

Not only is this government not helping fishermen but it is adding to their burdens. For instance, section 61(2) of the bill states that fishermen shall be required to keep records of the number, sex, size, weight, species, product form or other information particulars on the product caught. Other information required includes the time and place of the landing, gear used and other types of equipment used. This is more information than the Cabinet ministers are required to give when they fly on their government jets.

The basic problem with this bill is not so much what it is, but it is what it is not. The government is using its blind-sighted attitude in dealing with problems in the fishery. As far as the government is concerned, extra fines with no enforcement guarantees will solve the problem. Once again, the government does not want to go to the heart of the problem because it is afraid of what it will find.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions or comments? Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Mr. Valcourt, seconded by—the hon. member for Kamloops.

An hon. member: What's going on?

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I must say I had not intended to debate Bill C-74 today because the projected business of the House was Bill C-73.

Some hon. members: Order.

Mr. Riis: Now that we have changed this, allow me the opportunity to say a few words on these most important amendments to the Fisheries Act.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order. The hon. government whip.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, we have a question of timing here. It was our understanding on this side of the House that the question had been called. Our observation was that the member who is now speaking was not in his place when that occurred. We are wondering whether or not the recognition of the word "debate" spoken from the back row is sufficient to continue the debate, or whether members have to be physically present in their place?

I am sure the House leader for the New Democrats would acknowledge that when the question was called, he was not in his place, but shouted "debate" from the back. I suggest this is not appropriate in terms of the way that we conduct our business.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Burnaby—Kingsway on a point of order.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, just two points on a point of order. First of all, my understanding is that following a speech, there is an opportunity for questions and comments. I stand to be corrected, but I do not recall the Speaker giving members an opportunity for—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Oh yes, I did. I asked for questions or comments. I did not get questions or comments and then I asked for debate. As I asked for debate, the hon. member for Kamloops was coming down the aisle to speak. I recognized the hon. member for Kamloops, but I wish that you would not bring the Chair into this argument, please.

Does the hon. member for Shefford have a privilege or point of order?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, but from the moment you recognize a member— Unlike the government whip, you had not asked the real question at the time we were discussing in this House. Therefore, I compliment you for recognizing the member for Kamloops.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for St. John's East on a point of order.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to drag you into this any more than is necessary but you quite clearly said it has been moved by the hon. member for Madawaska—Victoria. I heard that quite clearly. My colleagues across the way agree.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I was just beginning to put the question. I said, "Mr. Valcourt, seconded by—" and the hon. member for Kamloops was walking into the Chamber. I was going to put the question, yes, but the hon. member for Kamloops, as many members do in this Chamber, walked in as he was ready to speak. Members do have 15 or 20 seconds to walk in from the back to the front and occasionally the Speaker does