

Oral Questions

light of the conflict which is apparent at this time as to what really did happen, and I do not want to say who was telling the truth, but in order that we determine—

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Wait a minute.

Mr. Alexander: I say that with a great deal of respect. I am not criticizing what the parliamentary secretary said but I am emphasizing what Mr. McMillan has indicated. Does the Prime Minister not think that as a result of this confusion there should be an inquiry with respect to this matter, or that the matter should be put to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections in order that the whole matter can be considered?

An hon. Member: Make a charge.

Mr. Alexander: My hon. friend says make a charge. I am not making a charge. I am just trying to determine what went on.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. With all due respect to the hon. member, his question clearly anticipates a ruling which the Chair has to make on at least three outstanding questions of privilege. That ruling will take place at twelve o'clock. Whether individual members feel that that course should be followed will perhaps be reflected by the way the Chair deals with it and the way hon. members take it after that, but to ask individual members whether the matter should be referred to a committee when in fact three questions are before the House under reservation today for decision as to whether a prima facie question of privilege exists, which would be referred to the standing committee, I think puts an improper light on the question.

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EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON ACTION TO ELIMINATE CLAUSE
BOYCOTTING ISRAEL**

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. On May 8 the Prime Minister, referring to the Arab boycott, made the encouraging statement that this type of practice is alien to everything the government stands for and that he would hope no specific directive to this effect to departments and agencies would be necessary. However on June 2 the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce said that the government as a whole will be considering the matter in the very near future, and the view of the government will be communicated to all departments and the Crown corporation. I therefore want to ask the minister whether he can say whether the government has completed this consideration, and if so, what view the government now has of the matter and whether it is communicating this to the Export Development Corporation and other Crown corporations, agencies and departments.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, this matter is still under cabinet consideration, but in answer to the hon. member I

[Mr. Alexander.]

would say that the answer I gave on a previous occasion, June 2, 1975, still stands until we make a further decision and announcement.

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FISHERIES**CLOSING OF PORTS TO RUSSIAN FISHING VESSELS—
KNOWLEDGE OF REPORT BY MR. WEEKS CONCERNING
EFFECT OF ACTION**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of State (Fisheries). When he made his statement last Wednesday that the government was closing our eastern ports to the Russian fishing fleets, did he have in his possession the report of Mr. Ernest Weeks, a government departmental report, which said that the closing of the ports to Soviet ships would have little effect on the over-fishing? That statement has now been fully corroborated by Mr. Louis Day, Secretary General of ICNAF. I ask the minister, further, if he agrees that, apparently, the government has closed the ports to the Russian business, which we want, without closing fishing areas to Russian over-fishing, which we do not want?

● (1140)

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I certainly had in mind the report of Mr. Weeks, which is over one and a half years old and which was looking at the long-term development of Canadian ports, if and when Canadian jurisdiction were extended. The subject raised by the hon. member, that of the inconvenience to the Soviet Union, also was not covered in Dr. Weeks report, but at that time the level of visits was not at 400 a year, as it was one year ago. There were almost 200 in the first six months of this year.

As for the latter part of the hon. member's question—I am sorry, my memory fails me at the moment.

**ABILITY OF PORTS ON ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON TO SERVICE
RUSSIAN FISHING FLEET—REPORT OF MR. WEEKS**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister if his memory failed him on something else, when he told the House on Wednesday that the French islands, St. Pierre and Miquelon, did not have the capacity to service the Russian fleet. Was he aware that Dr. Weeks says in that report that both those islands could service the Russian ships adequately? Is Dr. Weeks in error, or has the capacity of these ports shrunk in the meantime?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, when I said my memory failed me, it was in relation to the third point the hon. member had made. I say again that Dr. Weeks was talking about a situation which existed roughly two years ago. Also, we have indicated to the French government the reasons for our closing. We invited them to consider our friendly relations and that we would find it difficult to understand if they did not support our point of view.