

Point of Order—Mr. D. W. Munro

tions, and the statistics produced by those two organizations are beyond question in terms of their validity.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I assured the hon. member I would look at his arguments. I will hear what the minister's intervention is when he is in the House, and then decide what is the resolution of this problem.

* * *

POINT OF ORDER

MR. MUNRO (ESQUIMALT-SAANICH)—REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, and I am sorry the government House leader is not present.

On June 5, Monday of this week, a special reference was given to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry in order to prolong its hearings, specifically for Tuesday and Thursday of this week. I do not think I need to go into the background of that fully. The reasoning for it is fairly clear to those who participated in the meetings.

There was a halt in meetings late last month because of the delicacy of negotiations then in course. Rather than having an in-camera session, or an open meeting when questions that might interfere with those negotiations could be asked, it was decided by the steering committee that we should not meet. It was agreed then that one extra meeting would be held in respect of fisheries. The meeting at which that decision was taken was on May 30.

On June 2 there was a very dramatic development, as you will recall, when United States fishermen were excluded from Canadian fishing zones, except in that area in dispute.

Following upon that, it seemed evident that the committee ought to meet to examine this situation more fully and obtain answers from ministers in respect of policy questions. Two meetings were organized, and it was expected that the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment (Mr. LeBlanc) would be present. For very good reasons the minister could not be there. He is in New Brunswick attending the funeral of a former member of the other place. That is understandable.

What I am suggesting is that we are trying to get from the House leader a further reference. In view of the fact that June 19 is the date when new negotiations are to resume, I would like to see this as an open reference to last for as long as this House is sitting this session, in order that the committee might meet and examine the situation as it develops even while the negotiations continue. We could then ask questions, not to embarrass anybody, but in order that we understand as well as possible what is going on, and for the edification of not just members in this House but of the Canadian public as well.

I would hope, therefore, that it would be possible to convince the government House leader to make a further reference to the Committee on Fisheries and Forestry in order that it might

[Mr. Andre.]

meet on a number of occasions between now and the termination of this session.

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, a motion has already been tabled by the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen) under which the committees can sit and consider the estimates after May 31 until the third day preceding the last allotted day which has not yet been determined but which will probably be before June 30. As for the request of the hon. member who would like to discuss a matter other than the estimates and to sit as long as possible in June, we will consider its merits.

● (1542)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Fourth report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs—Mr. Kaplan.

* * *

POINT OF ORDER

MR. ALEXANDER—INACCURACY IN MINISTERIAL DESIGNATION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order which relates to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro). I did give him notice, but he is not here. However, I think it is important that we clear this matter up. In a brochure congratulating the winner of the winner of the Miss Polonia contest of Grimbsy, Ontario, in and around the third week of May, there is a message allegedly coming from the minister's department. You will notice I did not say the minister himself because I know that the minister would not do a thing like this, but I think it is necessary for him to know, and he does know, what perhaps his staff have done inadvertently. The message says:

Congratulations to Miss Polonia from John Munro, P.C., M.P. Minister of Labour and—

Here is the offensive clause, sir:

—minister responsible for multiculturalism.

We all know that the minister has one particular job, and not two. Therefore, having brought that to the minister's attention prior to my standing today, and again at this moment, I hope he will admonish his staff in order to see that this sort of inadvertence is not carried on any further.