

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Secretary of State say whether this presentation has been dealt with by cabinet—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have some doubt whether the question as asked is in order. The hon. member is referring to a communication in the form of a document between members of the cabinet. I have serious doubt whether in that form the question is acceptable.

Mr. Simpson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State's department some months ago advised the provincial authorities that a decision was being awaited on this matter. They are now anxious to know whether or not cabinet has dealt with it.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, we have actually received such a suggestion and it is now under consideration.

[English]

Mr. Simpson: Mr. Speaker, the minister says they have received this request. Has the minister's department or the minister submitted a proposal to cabinet in this respect?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I feel, as you yourself seemed to indicate a moment ago, that internal communications within the government should not be made the object of questions or answers in the house.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Secretary of State for speaking in support of the Chair's decision.

[English]

I must reiterate my view that the question as asked at the present time is quite in order but not the supplementary.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

RAID ON OFFICE OF FREDERICTON "GLENER"

Hon. Hugh John Flemming (Carleton-Charlote): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Have the details of an apparently discriminatory raid on the Fredericton *Gleaner*, carried out recently by officials of the Combines Investigation Branch, been reported to the minister, and can he give the House any information on this very serious and damaging action?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I should like to thank the hon. member for having sent notice of his question across the

[Mr. Simpson.]

aisle. I am not aware of the particular facts alleged by the hon. member. I might say to him that the administration under the Combines Investigation Act is within the responsibility of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and no longer falls within the purview of the Department of Justice. The Director of Investigation and Research may well have been acting under his own statutory power. I will draw this situation to the attention of my colleague and ask him to contact the hon. member.

Mr. Flemming: Will the minister consult with his colleague to ascertain whether similar investigations were made and similar actions taken in other parts of Canada in connection with the same type of matter?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Yes, sir.

FISHERIES

INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF SALT FISH MARKETING CORPORATION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Can he assure the House that his discussions with members of the salt fish trades will in no way impede or slow down the progress of the proposed legislation to establish a salt cod marketing corporation, and can he also report to the House on the meetings that have taken place in Ottawa in the last few days between officials of his department and representatives of the salt fish trades?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I think I can give the hon. member that assurance. Also, in approximately ten days' time I will be discussing this matter with the fishermen of Newfoundland as well as the trade there.

SALMON FISHING LICENCES—POSITION OF INDIANS

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I also have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Can he answer today the question I posed yesterday on whether he would agree to a referral for investigation and report to the Standing Committee on Fisheries of the whole question of the proposal regarding salmon fishing licences on the west coast? The minister should be in a good position to answer this question since he has just returned from our fair province.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I would be only too