

Hon. Iona Campagnolo (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should like to congratulate my new critic on his position. I regret that there are only some 16 or 17 of his colleagues in the House to hear his first question to me.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Campagnolo: Naturally, Mr. Speaker, the branch of government which I have the honour to administer fulfils all the requirements of the act. It has, furthermore, made known all the facts the hon. member has requested.

● (1152)

Mr. Halliday: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would not want to accuse the minister of being at all pretentious, but in view of the fact that this week she has submitted to the House a green paper on amateur sport before submitting her annual report, and in view of the fact that in this green paper there is reference to her earnest desire to seek opinions and consultations from other governments, individuals and sporting associations across the country regarding amateur sport, but there is only passing reference to the fact that she would like to have comments from members of parliament, may I ask the minister whether she would consider establishing a parliamentary committee which could then look into the problem of amateur sport and fitness across this country?

Mrs. Campagnolo: Mr. Speaker, I think the green paper itself is an excellent way for members of parliament to have their say. In fact, at this time I am preparing a letter to all members of parliament, as I did with the hockey inquiry just recently, as well as to Senators in the other place. All hon. members will be aware of the hearings when they go to their own part of the country and will be able to participate in that manner. Following the input from the country at large, it may then be necessary to have further discussions in the regular committee process of the green paper results.

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ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

TIME PERIOD REQUIRED FOR REVIEW OF SALARY CONTRACTS—
NUMBER OF REVIEWS PENDING

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that applications to the AIB for review of negotiated salary contracts have been made as early as January of this year but have still not been taken care of to date, and in view of the insecurity that this delay causes Canadians, what is the time frame for people expecting a reply from the AIB, and how many applications are in fact pending at this time?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to give exact data in reply to this question. I agree with the hon. member that there is no special reason why it should take more than six or seven months for a reply

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and that that is not satisfactory. I will look into the matter and try to give a specific answer to the point he has raised.

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FISHERIES

ATLANTIC SALMON—SUGGESTED INCREASE IN STAFF TO
PREVENT POACHING

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the minister responsible for fisheries. It has been the policy of the department during the past two or three years to try to enhance the Atlantic salmon population on the Atlantic coast of Canada and in its rivers. During this time there has been an inadequate surveillance crew along these streams and poaching has been prevalent. In his recommendation for the budget for the coming year, would the minister responsible for fisheries be able to submit a budget which will contain adequate money and provision of man years for the proper enforcement of the laws as they relate to salmon fishing?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member looks at the record he will find that the number of fisheries officers assigned to protecting our salmon rivers, especially since the ban has been in effect, has been very, considerably increased. In fact, this is one area of the department which has increased the most in the last six years.

I recognize that the ban means added pressures. Many people who have fished traditionally for Atlantic salmon—and I do not blame them for wanting to eat more—find they do not have access to it. The hon. member knows very well that we will never be able to eliminate all acts of vandalism—because that is what poaching is, an act of vandalism against society.

Because of the new legislation which he and many others, both on this side of the House and on the other side, helped to put through last June, very severe penalties will now be imposed. In fact, I am now looking at some recommendations regarding seizure and forfeiture of vehicles used in acts of poaching or for the transporting of illegally caught fish. I will be making a decision having given consideration to all of the problems that they represent.

I might say to the hon. member that citizens who want to protect their resource—because it does belong to citizens of this country—should also co-operate with us. We will never be able to solve all the problems, but we certainly have no intention of giving up against poachers.

Mr. McCain: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the various fish and game associations, and particularly the Atlantic salmon association in the province of New Brunswick, have been making strong recommendations to the minister, would he please reconsider his statement and reinforce those people who are responsible for surveillance? I ask this in view of the fact that the poaching situation has really reached commercial proportions in very