

ing was that the employer groups from British Columbia and Quebec both supported the continuation of controls for some time but indicated that they should be removed by the phased method. I think that is some indication on their part that they expect to see further protection from the controls for some months yet, but they are welcoming the phased decontrol method, which has been the government's preferred option.

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FISHERIES

JOINT VENTURES WITH EUROPEAN NATIONS—COUNTRY TO WHOSE QUOTA CATCH ALLOCATED

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. In view of the announcement in Nova Scotia that a two-week fisheries trade mission has laid the groundwork for the establishment of co-operative fishing arrangements with several European fishing nations, both for the short-term and on an on-going basis for several years, would the minister indicate if he has agreed to the establishment of these joint ventures with the Europeans and Soviet bloc countries within Canada's 200-mile economic zone and the number of joint ventures approved? Would he also indicate whether the quotas to be caught will be from the countries involved in the joint ventures, or will they be taken from allocations to Canadian fishermen?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's question creates a difficulty because I have seen no details of the proposals which are being discussed. As I have indicated, this has been a matter of at least one year's record. I can see joint arrangements, but I do not see joint ventures because I do not see the need for foreign capital in processing facilities. The need for joint arrangements is to be looked at on an ad hoc basis very carefully, and the principle that where fish can be caught by Canadian fishermen they should not be caught by foreign fishermen should be maintained.

DATE WHEN EXPANSION OF FLEET CAN BE ANNOUNCED

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, since it is obvious that joint fishing ventures can only be considered as stop-gap measures until we develop our own fishing capability—and this was endorsed by the minister's answer—I would like to ask him when we can expect an announcement of proposals which will enable Canadian fishermen and the Canadian shipbuilding industry to expand Canada's deep sea and inshore fishing fleet?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, surely the hon. member is not advocating that we undertake construction of more vessels. That is what we have done in the past, and it has created a very large over-capacity. Our policy is to allow the stocks to recover. Those stocks which we have traditionally been inter-

ested in are rather seriously depleted, and recovering those stocks will take some time. Meanwhile, we are looking at the fleet and the need for replacement. However, I am sure the hon. member shares my view, because of his knowledge of the matter, that because we have the economic zone drawn on the map does not automatically multiply the number of fish, which seems to be an attitude which is developing in the Atlantic provinces now.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

REASON FOR INADEQUATE COVERAGE BY PROGRAM "NEW BRUNSWICK TODAY"

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. It has to do with the non-action on the part of the CBC regarding radio and television programming in northern New Brunswick in the area of the Bay of Chaleur. In addition to the problems with the radio side of it, I am wondering if the minister would inquire as to why the program "New Brunswick Today" refuses to give appropriate and adequate coverage to that part of the province.

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I have received some representations from the hon. member in relation to the broadcasting system in the past, and I am exploring those with the CBC. I am sorry to hear about these latest difficulties. I am glad the hon. member has brought them to my attention, and I shall certainly make representation in an effort to try to have the hon. member's representations dealt with adequately and as quickly as possible.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE—POSSIBILITY OF DEAL FOR LESSER CHARGE THAN BREAK AND ENTER

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General, and it concerns the Montreal break-in. The three police officers charged in that case were charged under section 115 of the Criminal Code, which is a catch-all section to catch any violations of any federal statute. The result is that it was possible for them to get unconditional discharges; whereas if they had been charged with breaking and entering, that disposition would not have been available to the judge.

Has the Solicitor General been able to determine whether the RCMP officer in question made an agreement or a deal with the prosecuting attorney to have a lesser charge than breaking and entering laid in exchange for a plea of guilty?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not been able to ascertain that. I must say once again that the matter of the break-in was inquired into very extensively by the department of the attorney general of the prov-