

that industry. To mention only one example, there was an energy exhibition in Kenya last summer at which the Canadian solar industry was well represented. Significant sales were made, thanks to the support the federal government has given to that industry.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

DAMAGE DONE TO FISHERMEN'S NETS AT HALIFAX, N.S.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Madam Speaker, I have a very brief question for the Minister of National Defence, if I might have his attention. I draw to the minister's attention incidents involving Canadian destroyers which have inadvertently—I am sure through some misunderstanding—destroyed probably 40 per cent to 50 per cent of the herring catch capability of fishermen on the eastern side of Halifax harbour during the last week or ten days. The matter has been corrected through local intervention. Will the minister intervene with the Adjutant General's office in the Maritime Command to ensure the most expeditious settlement of claims so that the fishermen might purchase additional nets and participate in the lucrative herring fishery which is just now coming into full swing?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, we pay very close attention to any remarks he makes because most of the time they are very ably made on behalf of his constituency. I agree with the hon. member. We will take all the steps necessary to see that claims can be settled in the interests of both the Canadian Armed Forces and the fishermen of his region. We will do everything possible to help. The hon. member may tell the fishermen—and we will tell them—that we will try to settle the problem as quickly as possible.

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ENERGY

DEPARTMENTAL REACTION TO COMMITTEE REPORT ON ACID RAIN

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. As the minister will know, in October of last year the all-party unanimous subcommittee report on acid rain was released. The minister will also know that last week the Minister of the Environment seemed to indicate that talks between the United States and Canada are falling apart. Can the minister advise the House what the reaction of his department was to the recommendations of the subcommittee report on acid rain, and what response the minister has given to his colleague, the Minister of the Environment, with respect to his department's part, now and in the future, in carrying out the recommendations?

Point of Order—Mr. Andre

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, my department is represented by me as a member of the cabinet. I give full support to the Minister of the Environment in his actions to deal with the question of acid rain. When the Minister of the Environment speaks about the acid rain issue, he speaks on behalf of the government of which I am very proud to be a part.

Mr. Fraser: Madam Speaker, I am very pleased the minister is proud to be part of the government, but that was not the question.

NATURE OF DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Madam Speaker, what has the minister or his department done to communicate to the Minister of the Environment or anyone else the reactions, suggestions, criticisms or whatever there may be, in some sort of document, with respect to the recommendations brought down by the acid rain subcommittee last October? That is what we want to know. That is what we are asking the minister. We are not asking for an off-the-cuff comment about how proud the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Minister of the Environment are to be part of the government.

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, my department communicates directly and practically on a daily basis with the Department of the Environment.

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[English]

POINT OF ORDER

MR. ANDRE—PROVISIONS IN MAIN ESTIMATES, 1982-83—RULING BY MADAM SPEAKER

Madam Speaker: I will rule today on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) on Friday last. He raised a point of order with respect to the procedural acceptability of a number of votes in the main estimates for the fiscal year 1982-83. I want to thank him for bringing those matters to the attention of the House and the Chair. I did appreciate, of course, the usual thoroughness and detail of his submission. I want also to express my appreciation to the hon. President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) who, unfortunately, is not in the House today. I have to rule on this particular point of order despite his absence.

● (1500)

Points of order relating to the procedural acceptability of funds in the estimates have been raised many times since the change in the rules on supply in 1968. The background has been well covered and indeed I dealt with it myself in my ruling of June 12, 1981. I do not intend to take up too much of the time of the House by repeating it all today. I invite the attention of all hon. members to that ruling and would remind