

Oral Questions

traffic to fish traffic in Canada. My question is directed to the Minister of State for Fisheries.

Could the minister advise the House and Canada fishermen what optimism they can expect from the ICNAF conference which has just ended in Montreal and what is the position of rosefish fishing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and eastern Canada, following the agreement between the Soviet Union and Canada which he recently signed in Moscow on behalf of Canada?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I think that the conference which has just ended in Montreal yielded excellent results for Canada. ICNAF member countries have accepted that special efforts should be made to rebuild the stocks; thus the total rosefish catch will decrease from 985,000 down to 697,000 tons for the year 1977. On the other hand, Canada's share will be comparatively higher. As for the exchange of rosefish and capelin between our country and the Soviet Union, there was indeed an agreement that 14,000 tons of the Soviet quota would be transferred to Canada, as well as 1,500 tons of the Cuban quota in exchange for our support for a higher capelin quota for the Soviet Union.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS**PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DELEGATION FROM SOVIET UNION**

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to underline the presence in your gallery of a delegation from the Soviet Union.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker, with your permission I should like to underline the presence in your gallery of a distinguished delegation from the Soviet Union to the recent ICNAF conference, which was led by their able deputy minister, Mr. Kamentsev.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FISHERIES**POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF LANDING RIGHTS WITH ICNAF COUNTRIES FOLLOWING EXTENSION OF FISHING ZONES**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Minister of State (Fisheries). May I ask him whether at any time preceding, during or following the ICNAF conference discussions took place with member countries of ICNAF respecting landing rights for these countries after we have declared our jurisdiction over the 200 mile economic zone?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I assume that the hon. member means landing rights for fishery products, not for repairing vessels. Normally, this matter would not come under the terms of reference of the ICNAF commission; it would be the subject of bilateral discussions and is part of the ongoing

[Mr. Béchard.]

discussions within the framework of our bilateral treaties with six of the ICNAF nations.

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ENERGY**ELLIOT LAKE URANIUM MINE—POSSIBILITY GOVERNMENT WILL REQUEST SAFER METHOD OF OPERATION**

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister of energy, but in his absence may I direct it to the acting minister or the parliamentary secretary. In view of the large expansion program at Elliot Lake uranium mine and the ensuing waste disposal problems, has the Atomic Energy Control Board demanded that the company must utilize safer methods of operation, such as increased and continuously monitored ventilation, recycling of waste water and backfilling of surface pollutants underground, in order that we do not have a repeat of the severe health problems affecting miners at Elliot Lake?

● (1140)

Mr. Maurice Foster (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Atomic Energy Control Board is constantly reviewing these standards relating to the health and safety of uranium miners. This is a shared responsibility with the provincial departments of health. I may say that the government is increasing its research programs this year by some \$600,000 as they relate to continuous monitoring and improvements to the mine atmosphere, and they will work with provincial governments in this regard.

Mr. Symes: Mr. Speaker, I take it from the answer that no new instructions have been given to the company about environmental safety.

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MANPOWER**REQUEST FOR ACTION TO FIND ABOVE-GROUND JOBS FOR URANIUM MINERS WHO HAVE HIGH RADIATION EXPOSURE**

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that as of the end of 1974, the latest figures available, some 139 employees at Elliot Lake have a high radiation exposure, some as high as three times the allowable limit, and are having difficulty in being placed in non-exposure jobs above ground, will the minister establish a special job search and job creation program for these miners who are facing extreme health hazards by continuing to work underground?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will note that suggestion and consider it.