

Oral Questions

Mr. Oberle:—and by resigning to repair the damage which has been done to this institution, and as a happy coincidence maybe he could restore his own financial health which he said he sacrificed to his Party?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I do not think this kind of question even deserves an answer.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S AWARENESS OF ALASTAIR
GILLESPIE'S INVOLVEMENT

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. On Friday the Minister of Finance said that he would inquire of the Deputy Prime Minister the exact time at which the Deputy Prime Minister first became aware of Mr. Gillespie's involvement in the Cape Breton coal project. Also the Prime Minister, in reply to my question, said that he would table documents on the telephone bills, although he hid behind executive privilege with respect to Cabinet minutes.

Is the Minister of Finance now in a position to tell the House when the Deputy Prime Minister first became aware of Mr. Gillespie's involvement in the Cape Breton Synfuels Project and when the telephone bills will be tabled in the House?

Madam Speaker: I do not believe the Minister of Finance should answer that question.

Hon. Herb Gray (President of Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I do not have with me the information sought by my hon. friend. With respect to the second part of his question, certainly that will be responded to in the terms the Prime Minister used in his answer last week.

ALLEGATION OF 1980 BUDGET LEAK

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, I wish to put my supplementary question to the Minister of Finance with respect to the budget leak in a similar manner as did my Leader on Friday. Can the Minister help the House on this allegation of a budget leak by telling us whether he has inquired of the Deputy Prime Minister with respect to the Deputy Prime Minister's involvement in the Cape Breton coal project, as promised, and would the Minister of Finance not agree that there is in fact a little more than what he said about no shred of evidence, since there is circumstantial evidence with respect to this matter and the Deputy Prime Minister's involvement as a friend of his riding announcing the project, putting it in the budget and so on? Would the Minister of Finance not agree that in fact there is a case of circumstantial evidence at the very minimum, enough that it should go to an independent investigation for inquiry?

Hon. Herb Gray (President of Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I reject completely the unsubstantiated inferences and innuendoes in my hon. friend's question, but to the extent

that it has any substance I will bring that substance to the attention of the Prime Minister.

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FISHERIES

CANADA-FRANCE CODFISH TREATY—OBSERVANCE IN GULF OF
ST. LAWRENCE

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Under a treaty with France which terminates on May 15, 1986, Canada agreed to let the fleet from continental France catch 21,000 metric tonnes of codfish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, while at the same time restricting the operations of Newfoundland and Nova Scotian trawlers in this area, a problem which has not been covered or even referred to in any way by the Kirby Report.

Since the French reported landing in 1981 a total of 21,000 metric tonnes of finished product, which would require them to catch something like 50,000 metric tonnes of fish in the round, or 2.5 times their quota, what steps has the Minister taken to inform the French that this type of wanton destruction of our fisheries' resources and breach of faith with regard to the treaty regulations are unacceptable to Canada?

● (1430)

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I will not, of course, confirm the allegations of the Hon. Member. What I can say, though, is that early in the decade we signed an agreement with France that will terminate in 1986. The policy of the Department is to insist that every angle of the agreement be respected. We are negotiating with France at this moment to make sure that the implementation of the agreement is to our satisfaction.

REQUEST THAT COMMISSION INVESTIGATE ALLEGED OVER
FISHING BY FRENCH FLEET

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Since it is alleged by Canadian fishing interests that the French fishing fleet continued its over fishing as late as 1982 in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, while Canadians are being denied such simple things as fishing licences as a conservation measure is the Government giving any thought to reducing the French fishing quota for 1983 by the amount the French have over fished during the past two years? If not, will the Government establish a commission to consider all disputes concerning the application of this treaty as called for in Article 10 of the agreement, which agreement I have here in my possession?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I would like to say very emphatically to the Hon. Member that, as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, my