

the route that both the industry workers and the fisheries council in British Columbia have agreed is the only acceptable response to the decision of the panel on west coast salmon and herring. Has the minister eliminated this option as a way of complying with the ruling?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I believe my statement, made jointly with the Minister for International Trade yesterday, speaks for itself.

Canada is assured that the findings of the free trade panel, the first one commissioned under the historic free trade agreement, can be supported by Canada because we are satisfied that our conservation and management requirements will be met, while permitting some small part of the Pacific salmon or herring catch to be exported only on conditions equivalent to those we require to manage all fish landed in the west coast fisheries.

Mr. Stupich: Mr. Speaker, according to press reports yesterday the government has accepted the free trade panel's decision ensuring American exploitation of our fishery resource. Will the minister explain how he could reach such a decision, given the fact that there is no implementation plan in place? How does the minister plan to monitor the repercussions of this ludicrous decision?

Mr. Siddon: Mr. Speaker, this is an important question. Canada will ensure the integrity of our management system to properly conserve this important Canadian resource.

If the hon. member would read, I believe it is, section 718 of the panel report, he would find that the panel gives Canada broad latitude within which to establish a range of management measures to ensure that fish caught in Canada will be counted by Canadians in a fail-safe way before being exported.

• (1440)

Mr. Stupich: Mr. Speaker, the minister did not say how he is going to count the ones that are being exported.

The minister and his colleague, the Minister for International Trade, have said repeatedly that no jobs—and this is a direct quotation from this minister—“histor-

ically established” would be lost as a result of any decision under the GATT or the free trade agreement.

Will the minister now guarantee to this House, and to industry workers concerned, that no Canadian fish processing jobs will be lost as a result of his government's cave-in to the U.S.?

Mr. Siddon: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member and his party continue to promote the myth that this set of management requirements has something to do with protecting jobs. That matter was resolved many months ago when Canada accepted a GATT panel's finding that we had to play by the rules of international trade if we wished to trade in the international market-place.

I can assure the hon. member that in the five years this government has been in office there have been year over year more processing jobs in the Pacific coast fishing industry than in each previous year. In an era of liberalized trade where we will have access to more foreign markets, not less, by playing by the rules of international trade, there will indeed be increasing employment in British Columbia for fishermen and process workers.

* * *

PRESENCE IN GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the members' attention the presence in the gallery of Her Excellency Corazon Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

FISHERIES

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to address my question to the Minister of Fisheries and say to him first that he has nothing but a record of negligence and surrender in defending the interests of the fishing industry of this country.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: I know the hon. member feels very strongly about this, but he seems to be going a little bit beyond an appropriate preamble. Perhaps the hon. member could put his question.