

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Keays: Mr. Speaker, I should not like to see the house leader left out of this consultation. May I therefore ask him whether he would be interested in trying to convene the committee.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has made his suggestion.

[Translation]

FISHERIES

ARTICLE IN PARIS "MATCH"
ON KILLING OF BABY SEALS

On the order of the day:

Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Fisheries, but first, I must confess that I find it hard not to congratulate him on having won his elections yesterday.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mongrain: My question is motivated by a report printed in the great French magazine *Paris-Match*, under the title: "Have mercy on baby seals." Here is my question: Has the minister received recently any representations from other sources regarding baby seal hunting and does he intend to renew his efforts to put an end once and for all to these false reports which are extremely damaging to the good name of Canada?

Hon. H.-J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I should like, in the first place, to thank the hon. member for his congratulations which normally should be directed to another Robichaud.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Robichaud: In reply to the question of the hon. member, I must advise him that the article published in the said magazine has been drawn to my attention on various occasions; I have made public the action taken by my department, in order to control seal hunting operations on the St. Lawrence river and in the areas east of the Newfoundland shore.

There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that exaggerated and quite often untrue statements of certain representatives of the Humane Society have done irreparable damage to that industry and today some human beings are suffering from the harmful effects of that false publicity.

May I also add, Mr. Speaker, that at the beginning of this month, a meeting took place in Hamburg, with the representatives of Norway and Denmark, and I hope to be

able to announce in the near future the additional measures which we intend to introduce to further control those hunting operations.

We have been assured by the countries concerned of their fullest co-operation.

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Does the minister intend to have someone to reply directly to the magazine *Paris-Match* which has an enormous circulation in the world?

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Speaker, I shall take this suggestion into consideration.

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Fisheries.

Is he aware of the fact that, in Paris and in some European cities, some advertising is circulated to the effect that Canadian seals are not sold? What does he intend to do in that regard?

Mr. Speaker: Order. In its present form, I do not think that the hon. member's question is in order.

[English]

TRADE

REPLY TO PROTEST RESPECTING PROPOSED
U.S. RESTRICTIONS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Has the government received from the government of the United States a reply to the note sent to that government last week protesting the possible application of import quotas against Canadian goods affected by Kennedy round tariff reductions, and has the United States government indicated its realization that Canada will not stand for the application of such import quotas?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we have received a reaction through diplomatic circles, but there has been no written reply and I am not aware we expected one. However, there is every indication that the government of the United States is taking our representations quite seriously.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister of Trade and Commerce made his protest on behalf of the government, did