

United States Senate hearing on the Canada-United States boundary settlement treaty and its relation to fisheries' problems on the east coast. I may say that the statement has just been made available to me by the office of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The United States government is proceeding to ratify the boundary settlement treaty. The United States has abandoned the fisheries treaty to which it was originally linked as a package.

The United States government is in no doubt as to Canada's profound disappointment and regret at this unilateral abandonment of the fisheries treaty. We are particularly concerned for the conservation of the fisheries resource on Georges Bank. The President has said that he intends to institute a scallop-management plan for United States fishermen there. Given the disputed ownership of the resource, Canada would expect to be consulted on this plan before it is instituted.

United States government spokesmen have said in Senate hearings that an interim fisheries arrangement between Canada and the United States is not possible until a boundary line is drawn. This does not mean, however, that appropriate conservation measures cannot, and should not, be put into effect.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE—FISHING PERMITS

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Williams on March 12 concerning the Law of the Sea Conference and fishing permits within Canada's 200-mile economic zone.

The 200-mile economic zone and the Law of the Sea Conference are totally separate issues.

The issuing of fishing permits is a bilateral matter between Canada and other individual nations, except in the case of the European Economic Community which we deal with as a unit. These permits are not issued except when there is a surplus of stock.

THE CONSTITUTION

EFFECT OF PROPOSED CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Bosa on March 12, concerning the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the article in the *Globe and Mail* on March 11 by one Roderick McLeod. Since this is a rather extensive reply and is of some importance, I would ask that it be incorporated in today's record of proceedings.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

[Senator Perrault.]

(For text of reply, see Appendix "A", p. 2121.)

• (1420)

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

EAST COAST FISHERIES AND MARITIME BOUNDARY TREATIES

Hon. Jack Marshall: I have a supplementary question to the delayed answer that the minister gave on the Canada-U.S. fisheries treaty. It is obvious that the right course to follow is to have a management plan in connection with scallops; but, evidently, according to the TV news, Nova Scotia druggers have already been apprehended for fishing undersized scallops, which means that someone has already taken the bulk of the catch. This is early in the season.

I would like to find out the extent of the crisis. It should be pointed out to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and also to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, that they should demand of the American government that renegotiations take place as soon as possible.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I am sure that all honourable senators sympathize with the concerns expressed by Senator Marshall. Further information will be sought on the points raised by him.

THE CONSTITUTION

MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN— DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday the debate on the motion of Senator Perrault that an Address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Constitution of Canada.

Hon. Peter Bosa: Honourable senators, as I take part in the "second round" of the debate on the Constitution, I should like to join the many senators who have preceded me in congratulating the joint chairmen and all the members who served on the committee. I had the privilege of serving on it, as a substitute, for one sitting. The members of the committee have received much praise for their untiring work, and their report will be regarded as one of the most important reports in the history of the Canadian Parliament since Confederation.

In the "first round" of the debate, on October 28 last, I said that I was in general agreement with the principles of the resolution, but that I intended to criticize the government for not going far enough in some areas of the Charter of Rights. I was particularly concerned, among other things, about the absence of any reference to multiculturalism and a more concise definition of our native peoples. Both these concerns have been met in clauses 25 and 27 of the new and improved resolution.

• (1425)

Before I speak on the Charter of Rights, I would like to deal with some other aspects of constitutional reform, starting with the principle of "unanimous consent" or "*liberum veto*," to put it in the language of my ancestors.