

Oral Questions

With respect to the question of a similar program for commercial fishermen in New Brunswick or elsewhere, we are considering an initiative to retire the remaining commercial salmon licences in New Brunswick as well as in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

However, in Newfoundland and Labrador this is a program shared 70 per cent by the federal government, 30 per cent by the province and therefore we will need the co-operation of the provincial governments in these places as well.

I am glad to see that the hon. Leader of the Opposition, who is from New Brunswick, is very interested in the reply to this question.

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GASOLINE ADDITIVES

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment.

Lead in gasoline causes irreversible brain damage in children. Knowing this, the Canadian government banned the use of it in Canada in 1990. However, this ban did not extend to the export and production of leaded gasoline.

Why should the children of the developing world suffer from a Canadian desire for exports? Will the minister today announce that he will enforce a ban on the export and production of leaded gasoline?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, in the case of tetraethyl lead, the Government of Canada has a policy by which we do not permit its common use in Canada now. It is permitted in certain exceptional circumstances in farm machinery. It is also used for certain planes. I think there are about 75,000 aircraft in Canada that use that type of fuel. Those are the conditions under which it is used.

In the case of export we are now in the process of putting forward regulations requiring that a notice be given to the countries that receive this product because in Canada there is specific legislation that constrains its use.

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, I think most members would agree there should be

standards internationally, not just for Canadian children, but for all the children of the world.

Methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, or MMT, has replaced lead in gas used in Canada. It too has potentially dangerous health effects and has been banned in the U.S. since 1978.

Will the minister allocate funds to help companies producing lead and MMT to convert to the use of environmentally friendly alternatives like ethanol?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment): I am very happy to report to the House, Mr. Speaker, that in the last budget the Government of Canada, through the Minister of Finance, brought in a measure that would specifically encourage the use of methanol by withdrawing the excise tax on that specific product, a very innovative measure that is going to be good for agriculture.

It is good for the environment. The impact on the environment is not perfect but it is going to be very good and that is exactly what the Government of Canada is proceeding to do.

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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture.

Last week I met with farmers from Halton and Peel counties. They are concerned about their futures as a result of the GATT talks, the possible elimination of article XI.

I know the minister is fighting for Canada's position at the GATT, but I have a question for him. Some farmers want Canada to take a walk away from the GATT table if we do not get a strengthened article XI.

Can the minister tell us what the likely consequences of that would be?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member is aware, the position that Canada put forward at the GATT was developed with the stakeholders, the producers and the provinces.

The rationale for Canada's position under supply management was the recognition that article XI, as it