

Oral Questions

a look at the actual figures and the thrust of the work that has gone on in the past year concerning battered women.

As to the project in the Annapolis Valley, I would suggest to the Hon. Member she bring it to my attention so that we can work on it very quickly to see that it happens.

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FISHERIES**GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA PACKERS' FACILITIES**

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, if he can tear himself away from his briefing with his predecessor.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Siddon: The question relates to a very serious matter which is developing in British Columbia. Today the Government of Canada will close a deal with British Columbia Packers and hand it \$9.8 million so that Small Craft Harbours Branch can take over the operation of the small craft facilities that were formerly provided for fishermen by B.C. Packers. Coincident with that takeover, the fishermen are to be charged, up front, exorbitant increases in moorage and storage costs. Contrary to the undertaking of the Minister in a letter to me, there apparently was no advance consultation with respect to these increases.

Will the Minister please explain for the fishermen, of whom over 1,000 are meeting this afternoon in Richmond, B.C., why he is nicking them at least \$1,000 each in the aftermath of a very poor fishing season?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, this is a classical case where the Minister is damned whatever he does. Here is a company, B.C. Packers, which has decided to use its land for a housing development project. As you know, it has berthing facilities for over 1,000 boats there. I came to the conclusion that it was my duty to convince Cabinet to give me the money to buy that facility so those who have their boats there will not have to move either to Port Alberni or to other sites in British Columbia. This is what I have done.

As for the amounts to be paid by our fishermen, this, of course, is open for debate. I understand that in order to score some political points the Hon. Member is against the Department charging a reasonable fee. But I just ask the Hon. Member to look at what the private sector charges, particularly to those involved in sports fishing in B.C., and he will see the Department's fee is very reasonable.

Mr. Siddon: None of these fishermen are sports or recreational fishermen. Some of them operate small vessels. Some of them, particularly a large contingent of Japanese fishermen, were mistreated once before by this Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the hon. Member please ask his question?

DOCKING FEES TO BE CHARGED TO FISHERMEN

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister please explain why the fishermen are now going to be paying up to \$1,000 a year, whereas formerly they were paying virtually nothing for these moorage facilities? Is that a sign of progress? Is that a consequence of the Government's nationalization of our waterfront in British Columbia?

Mr. McKnight: It's user-pay.

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is again trying to score political points and really is reaching the bottom. What we are talking about here is that the Government of Canada moved precisely to remove any hardship. But if the Hon. Member is now suggesting that my Department should not try to levy a small fee to have the participants of the fishery pay a small part of the cost of those berthing facilities, which will increase our expenditure on the small craft harbours in B.C. substantially, because of that major acquisition, frankly, I expected some more responsible comments from the former Parliamentary Secretary of the Department.

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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**SIZE OF CANADIAN CONTINGENT STATIONED IN EUROPE**

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. When the Prime Minister visits our NATO allies in Europe this week, does he plan to tell them that this country, as a contribution to maintaining world peace, intends to restore the original size of our NATO commitment to 10,000 fully equipped men, which we pledged originally when NATO was formed, and which we maintained in Europe until 1968 when the Prime Minister took office and unilaterally cut that force in half?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member raises a very complex question. If I could refer him to my speech in Guelph on Thursday night, he would, I think, see the answers to that. There are two ways in which we can raise the nuclear threshold, one, by making the conventional force in Europe equal, by raising our expenditures in NATO on conventional arms, including the route which the Hon. Member indicates, that is, to increase the number of men and material over there. The other would be to have a successful follow through with the mutual and balanced force reduction talks in Vienna.

I would think it would be unwise to prejudge which of the two is better. But, as I said in my speech, surely the purpose of nuclear disarmament is not to make the world safe for more conventional arms. Therefore, the answer to the Hon. Member's question is not certainly that I would propose that we