

*Oral Questions***FISHERIES**

[Translation]

I think it is entirely reasonable to assume that this spring we will be able to introduce initiatives in response to the recommendations made by the symposium and the standing committee.

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[English]

CANADA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of small businesses, science and technology.

All hon. members should agree that the Canada Scholarship Program has been an important incentive for many of our young people to enter university and to study science and engineering. The students of today will be crucial to Canada's competitiveness tomorrow.

Could the government comment on its plans for the future of this program and what it plans to do to assist young people in learning technological trades?

Ms. Copps: How is your householder, Edna?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister for Science and Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend opposite asks the member asking the question whether this is for her householder. I hope it is because she has been behind technological training for youth ever since she was elected to Parliament.

The program she is speaking of, the Canada Scholarship Program, is sponsored not only by the government but also by educators and by industry. We now have 2,500 scholarships annually under this program.

I would like to remind the House that we have announced a new scholarship program beginning this year for first-year diploma program students entering technology. There are going to be 800 scholarships for these technology students and it will grow to 1,600 scholarships by the year 1995. My hon. friend will be interested to know that a minimum of 50 per cent of the scholarships are awarded to women.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

The minister will know that Nova Scotia fishermen feel somewhat abandoned by the minister of fisheries and the government for their failure to put in place an adequate compensation package.

In view of the seriousness of the situation on the east coast, what specific plan of action and time frame do the minister have in mind to assist these fishermen, plant workers and communities in their time of crisis?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman realizes of course that we do not have a moratorium in the fishery in the areas he is referring to so it is not, strictly speaking, comparable to the situation in the northern cod area.

Nevertheless, the reduction in the total allowable catch is very severe this year. There will be some thousands of people affected as to whether they become eligible for UI or not. With respect to what we can do for the fishery and processing plant workers, we are reviewing that situation. It is quite complicated because there are fisheries going ahead that will be quite profitable in other than groundfish species. The government is reviewing the situation.

We have to remember that most people are on UI at the moment and the fishermen will not be coming off UI until the middle of May. We still have some time to see whether any extraordinary steps are needed.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, the minister of fisheries is not only the minister responsible for that department. He is also responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. He knows full well the frightening high unemployment in some of the communities in Atlantic Canada. In fact in industrial Cape Breton it is 28.5 per cent, an alarming rate for any community in this country. Now thousands of fishermen and their families are having to turn to welfare and other means in order to provide for themselves.