

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent):** It is not as dramatic as the hon. member makes it sound. The fact is, however, that we have given the United States authorities a period of time in which to consult following the discussions which took place here last week. We have indicated that we cannot see a situation which would drag on all summer, because our fishermen would then be paying the price of the delay.

I might add that the significant fishery off the U.S. coast is not in early May but begins slightly later than that, and that our fishermen are still fishing off the coast of Alaska under the terms of the 1978 agreement.

**Mr. Leggatt:** Given the fact that most U.S. salmon have to travel off the coast of Vancouver Island to reach Puget Sound, and that a good many Canadian salmon must also travel through the same waters to reach the Georgia Strait, has the minister advised his United States counterpart that if no agreement is forthcoming with regard to this matter, Canada might have to resort to the alternative which one of his predecessors, Jimmy Sinclair, used, which was to move Canadian gillnetters off the coast of Vancouver Island and make a major fishing effort to catch all salmon?

● (1127)

**Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, we have made it very clear that if we cannot come to an agreement and there is no 1978 interim agreement, the fishermen of each country will then be confined to waters of their own country, in which case what the hon. member is suggesting would take place automatically.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**MANPOWER****CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF PROJECTS**

**Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

In my riding of Roberval, a group of four students got together to prepare and present a project. They have worked for weeks every night to make sure their project met the criteria and it was accepted. I have just been told that only one student out of four will not work at that project. Could the minister tell me if that is normal or if this is a new regulation governing acceptance of manpower in these projects?

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his representations. I do not know whether or not it is a regulation. I will have to examine this situation and report to the hon. member.

**Mr. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question. If it is a regulation and if the question is exact, would it not be discouraging for any group of students who have worked at preparing future projects?

[Mr. Leggatt.]

[English]

**Mr. Cullen:** No, Mr. Speaker, my experience has been that young people in Canada are not turned off by one rejection or one particular regulation. The fact is that they work even harder the next time to see that they come within the criteria.

\* \* \*

**FINANCE****COMPENSATION TO ALBERTA FOR SALES TAX LOSS**

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance who wants to have it both ways. He told this House on Wednesday that Alberta was offered the same deal under his sales tax rebate program as the other provinces because of Alberta's oil and the incentives of the federal government to aid in the development of heavy oil projects. However, in the minister's budget address he stated that he did not include Alberta because Alberta did not have a sales tax, not because of incentives to the oil industry which, incidentally, benefits all Canadians.

Now that the rules have been changed and Quebec is getting \$186 million with no strings attached, will the minister offer Alberta taxpayers the same rebate that is being offered to Quebec taxpayers?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have stated, and I repeat, that at the time of the budget I said to the government of Alberta that I wanted to help the provinces which had sales taxes. Of course, Alberta is privileged enough not to need any sales tax and the scheme does not apply to Alberta.

**Mr. Clark:** Now you have changed the rules.

**Mr. Chrétien:** At the same time, I said to the Alberta minister of finance that there would be in the budget other things which could aid in the development of Alberta. I did not mention what it was to be because I had to keep that information for budget night.

On budget night I declared that the federal government was willing to make it easier for the development of heavy oil reserves and tar sands in Alberta in order to bring about more development there. The maritimes, for example, have a special deal, so to speak, because we have paid the maritimes three points and they have not contributed a single point because they are in a financial situation completely different from that of the central and western provinces.

**Mr. Towers:** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has stated from time to time that it would be good to have a voice from Alberta in the cabinet. He now has that voice. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether Alberta's representative in the cabinet, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, had an opportunity to veto, or did he agree with the proposal to pay \$85 directly to Quebec taxpayers, at the same time not paying anything to Alberta taxpayers, thereby selling Albertans down the river?