

Oral Questions

match or exceed other provinces in terms of economic growth.

Investment in New Brunswick rose by 20 per cent last year and is now nearly twice the national average. Our optimistic outlook, the impact of ACOA, the frigate program, the free trade agreement and generous IRDAs have all contributed to this increased investment. These positive economic indicators have provided it with a solid base to encourage more economic growth. Much remains to be done and we need to build on the momentum created in the province over the last five years, but clearly New Brunswick is open for business once again.

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CENTRAL AMERICA

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, events in Central America this week have cast a shadow over the peace process in the region. In El Salvador, the office of the National Union of Workers was bombed by the U.S. supported military, killing 12 and injuring 40. In Nicaragua, the continued disregard for the 19 month cease-fire by the U.S. backed Contras has left hundreds of Nicaraguan civilians dead and place the upcoming elections in jeopardy.

The government has announced its desire to join the Organization of American States and to play an influential role in the area. Unfortunately, empty rhetoric will not lead to peace in El Salvador and Nicaragua. When asked if Canada would act as an intermediary in the Nicaraguan conflict, the Prime Minister declared that as the "new kid on the block" he planned no action to assist the region. Are we peacemakers or are we idle bystanders?

Canada must involve itself in the peace process in an active and constructive way. While the Prime Minister is finding new clubs to join, people are dying in Central America. The time has come for the government to admit that the United States is a direct contributor to instability in the region.

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NORTHERN TROLLERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, for many years the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia in Dixon Entrance has been in dispute, the latest evidence of these difficulties being the arrest of the Canadian

troller inside our waters earlier this year by the U.S. coast guard.

In order to help prevent such incidents, the Northern Trollers Association has requested that Canada establish a navigational aid on Nunez Rock, one mile inside Canadian waters. This would clearly mark the rock to aid Canadian fishermen and mariners in an area noted for strong tides and inclement weather.

If the light beacon were to be equipped with automated devices, it would also provide badly needed weather reports for Canadian and American vessels alike. Most important, it would clearly establish Canadian sovereignty in this area to prevent a recurrence of last spring's incidents and thus ensure the freedom and safety of our Canadian fishermen.

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, the centres of excellence announcement made by the government show shamefully how little commitment it has to research and development. We are still miles behind the leading nations of the world. We are losing our competitive edge. Government has abandoned the social sciences and the humanities in this whole process. Not one single project has been funded. The social sciences and the humanities contribute to our quality of life, to productivity, to our competitiveness. There is no vision, no in-depth knowledge of what research and development can do for the nation.

[Translation]

Where is your vision? Where is the financial support for social sciences and the humanities? I ask you to reconsider your decision.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

MEMBER OF THE SENATE

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the ministers that we questioned in connection with the Cogger affairs all insisted that ministers of the Crown have no responsibility for the honesty, the probity or the proper functioning of their departments. They