

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to tell once more to my hon. colleague from Notre-Dame-de-Grâce that this government has been involved for many years in setting up programs for preparing Canadian men and women in the labour force to occupy the jobs which exist now or will exist in the future in the new technological industries.

I suggest however that he would do a favour to the Canadian public generally if he managed to convince his non-elected colleagues in the other place to adopt as soon as possible Bill C-21 which is now before the House, thereby making available to us the money we need to provide Canadian men and women with the necessary training to fill up the new jobs of the 1990s and the 2000s.

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• (1450)

[English]

#### ATLANTIC CANADA

**Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Over the past few days the minister has been floating trial balloons about possible changes to the ACOA program. The last time the minister took such flights of fancy ACOA suffered a 20 per cent cut and its program criteria was dramatically altered.

Now that the minister has seen the error of his ways, will he give Atlantic Canadians an assurance that his so-called impending changes are not just code words for further gutting of the only regional development program in Atlantic Canada?

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I received my colleague's letter yesterday, delivered to my office, in which he earnestly requested to be kept very closely informed about any such changes so that he could adequately respond. I will keep that in mind.

In so far as detrimental effects, I want to point out to the member again that in his constituency alone he has had over 600 jobs created under the auspices of ACOA,

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at estimated total costs of \$42 million. I think that perhaps it would be in order for him to wait and see about the changes because ACOA is the best thing he and other members in Atlantic Canada have going.

**Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the minister for his compliment about my competence as the member for Dartmouth.

I would like to read from the Conference Board of Canada report today which states:

The Maritime provinces will have to weather a storm front of economic uncertainty as major problems in the fisheries adversely affect their economic performances in 1990 and 1991.

It has been confirmed that a part of the proposed fisheries assistance program will be delivered through the ACOA budget. But what we do not know is how much the program will cost or where the money is going to come from.

Will the minister confirm that any fisheries assistance program will be funded by additional new moneys, or is the minister finally admitting that the promised generous assistance is nothing more than a deceitful reshuffling of an already gutted and battered ACOA budget?

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing to see that my colleague opposite has joined the legion of the perpetually indignant, Mr. Speaker. I can only say to him that the assistance that will be allocated to help the town of Canso and other disadvantaged areas in Atlantic Canada will be real assistance and whether he wants to quibble about old money or new money is up to him.

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#### THE LUMBER INDUSTRY

**Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt):** Mr. Speaker, in a recent article in *The Citizen* the Canadian Lumbermen's Association president has noted that the jobs hundreds of people across Canada who work at 40 distribution centres for the lumber area where wood is unloaded at warehouses and reloaded in different packages for American customers will be lost as a result of the goods and services tax. They say that to avoid the high cost of financing the tax the reload centres will just simply move across the border.