

Oral Questions

in 1976 to take over the unemployment insurance program. Can the minister tell us, first, whether the conclusions of that study are well-founded and, second, whether the present Quebec government has asked the new federal government to hand over this program?

Hon. Ron Atkey (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, obviously I have not had the opportunity to see this report. The unemployment insurance program quite clearly favours Quebec. An in-depth study conducted for the Employment and Immigration Commission shows that in 1977 the net total of benefits paid in Quebec was \$551.7 million. Ontario, on the other hand, contributed in the same year \$612.9 million more than it received in benefits.

Mr. Ouellet: I thank the minister for his answer. But I wonder if he could tell us whether his government has been asked by the Quebec government to hand over to that province total responsibility for unemployment insurance. Has such a request been made to the new government of Canada?

[English]

Mr. Atkey: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, there has been no formal or direct request, although one would have to believe—if there is substance to the report, which I have not seen, and it is truly a report of the government of Quebec—that in the near future such a request would be forthcoming.

As I have indicated to the hon. member, the cost to Quebecers of such a transfer would be considerable. I may indicate, for example, that if a program similar to that which we now have at the federal level were to be transferred, the increase in premiums for the average Quebecer would go up something in the order of three or four times, from \$1.35 per \$100 of insurable earnings to something in the order of \$3.50; or, for the average person making \$15,000 a year, an increase of something from \$300 per person to \$1,000 per year. That would be a substantial additional cost if such transfer were to be made and the same program continued.

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FISHERIES**STATUS QUO OF WEST COAST FISHING REGULATIONS**

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Because of the uncertainty on the west coast about the status of two sets of fishing regulations, one concerned with the proposed limit of 20 inches for Chinooks in the sports salmon catch, and another one connected with gill netters in the herring fishery, could the minister tell us what the status is of these regulations? Are they proposed; are they firmly there? If they are not firmly there, will he say when he is planning to clarify the situation?

Hon. James A. McGrath (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the sports fishing

[Mr. Ouellet.]

question, I am looking forward to having discussions with the new minister of the environment for British Columbia. To that end, I am hoping to be in a position to make a statement on new sports fishing regulations for British Columbia early in December.

With regard to the other aspect of the question, this is a matter of serious concern because it speaks to the preservation of a very important fishery, namely, the herring fishery on the west coast. To that end, we will have to bring in regulations which will ensure the survival of the species and at the same time protect a very important and lucrative fishery, namely, the herring roe fishery.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING POSSIBLE \$50 MILLION FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN HULL**

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

As the minister is aware, the Ottawa area daily newspapers announce today in their headlines that an agreement is about to be reached concerning the designation of Hull for industrial purposes. My question is this: could the minister indicate what is the present status of negotiations with the government of Quebec concerning the allocation of at least \$50 million in federal funds for industrial development in Hull?

[English]

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I can recognize the concern of my hon. friend opposite. But I want to tell him that the newspaper reports to which he refers are based, as far as I can tell, on a mixture of fact and speculation involving two proposed initiatives by DREE, one for Quebec and one for Ontario. I can tell him that when matters are finalized, they will be announced in due course.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAM IN HULL WILL BE EXTENSION OF MONTREAL PROGRAM

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Since his colleague the Minister of Supply and Services stated a few weeks ago in Buckingham, with a big smile on his face, that a major allocation of funds to the Hull area would be announced in January, could the minister indicate whether the \$50 million grant mentioned today is part of that program or whether it will merely be an extension of the Montreal area program?