

Oral Questions

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, that question was put to me on Friday and I immediately referred it to the RCMP for investigation. I have not yet had a report.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**CONSIDERATION OF FORMER MINISTER TO BE APPOINTED
PRESIDENT OF MAGI**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Now that the number two slot has been filled in the MAGI organization, can the minister inform the House whether the former minister of industry, trade and commerce, the Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin, is being considered for the top post?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Unfortunately, no, Mr. Speaker. I say that because I am sure my colleagues would share the judgment that he would be an excellent man for the position.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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NATURAL RESOURCES**EXPORT OF FRESH WATER—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister? In view of the renewed urgency of adopting a firm policy regarding the international use of Canada's fresh water supplies arising from the United Nations presentation to the World Food Conference which indicated that world demand for fresh water will increase by 240 per cent over the next five years, and in view of Canada's abundance of fresh water and the increasing world demand, is the government currently preparing a policy regarding the international use or the export of fresh water from Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the inventories of water supplies and their importance to Canada are part of a fund of knowledge being accumulated by the government; I would not want to say we know every detail of it—but there is no policy to export water from Canada.

Mr. Wenman: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the recent statements issued by the United Nations regarding the demand for fresh water, does the Prime Minister still hold the position that Canada would consider the sale of her fresh water "for good, hard cash"?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I would not object to that. If we could bottle up some water and sell it at a high price, it would be a nice thing, if we could replace what we were selling by good, fresh rain.

An hon. Member: Put some Scotch in it.

[Mr. O'Sullivan.]

FISHERIES**REDUCTION OF CATCH IN MARITIMES—GOVERNMENT ACTION
TO PREVENT INDISCRIMINATE FOREIGN FISHING**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and concerns the fishing industry in Canada. According to statistics, cod-fish landings up to the end of August this year in the maritimes are down 24 per cent compared with the same period in 1973; redfish are down 57 per cent, sole and flounder are down 15 per cent, herring catches 16 per cent, and comparable reductions are evident for halibut, mackerel, hake and other species. In view of the problems caused by indiscriminate fishing on our Canadian offshore banks, will the minister consider holding a special conference now in Ottawa with Russia, Norway, Britain, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Poland and the United States to see if some positive action can be taken before our fishing industry is completely destroyed?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, while not debating the statistics given by the hon. member, I would remind him that these pessimistic figures are due in part to ice conditions and a strike in Newfoundland. That being said, I recognize that the catch is lower than we would want. I would also remind the hon. member that ICNAF, with all its imperfections, is still the best avenue open to us. If ICNAF did not exist, we would not even be talking about an Atlantic offshore fishery. I am quite willing to look at the hon. member's suggestion, however, and if it is useful we will do something about it.

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FINANCE**SURTAX ON AUTOMOBILES—APPLICATION TO VEHICLES
ORDERED BUT NOT DELIVERED BEFORE BUDGET**

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Could the minister answer the question I put to him last week regarding the sale of automobiles and the surtax that was put into effect with the budget? Will that surtax apply on automobiles that were ordered before the budget but not delivered? The minister answered the question in reference to trucks, and I wonder if he could answer now regarding automobiles?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will be able to clarify that matter, which really relates to the legal date of a sale or purchase, when we are before the committee.

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MANPOWER**LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—SENATE MEMBERS
ANNOUNCING GOVERNMENT POSITION ON GRANTS**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister regarding various statements made on LIP grants. After the considerable work that has been done,