

Oral Questions

With respect to child pornography, there is a very important study being done by Dr. Badgley. We hope to have that report on all aspects of children and victims of crime. We will certainly be prepared to proceed with legislation at the proper time. We hope to have that report early in the new year.

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FISHERIES

FUTURE OF NOVA SCOTIA COMPANIES

Miss Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. It is my understand from rumours that the Minister will be meeting with Premier Buchanan tomorrow on the problem of Nickerson and National Sea Products. Is the Minister planning to propose to the Province the nationalization of these two companies? If so, what will he do to protect the position of all the other smaller companies across Nova Scotia and other Maritime Provinces caused by such an influx of capital into these companies? If not, will he allow private enterprise in Nova Scotia and other areas to pick up the assets of these two big companies?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, the last part of the Hon. Member's question asked, in effect, if the Government would allow the small processing companies in Nova Scotia to buy the bigger ones which have financial difficulties. My first comment is, of course, that this is a provincial responsibility. I am sure that neither the Government of Nova Scotia nor the federal Government would object to seeing the small companies take over the bigger companies.

Second, there is no question here of nationalization. What is even more important is that there is no question of bail-out. If we start giving hand-outs to big companies, the smaller ones—and rightly so—will say, "What about us? We want bail-outs and hand-outs". What I am trying to achieve with Premier Buchanan, and with Premier Peckford of Newfoundland and Labrador, is an equitable solution to a problem which could affect hundreds of small processors. If some big companies go under, of course there will be a depressing effect on all the different companies of the Atlantic region.

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EMPLOYMENT

REQUEST FOR FORESTRY JOB-CREATION PROGRAM

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration. In view of the continuing 22 per cent unemployment among Canada's young people and the growing concern about dwindling timber resources for Canada's No. 1 industry, I find it incredible that the Government has not yet announced a comprehensive, long-term plan to provide jobs in forestry at decent rates of pay. As EBAP

forestry projects wind down at the end of this month, the Government has nothing substantial to put in their place—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member should ask a question.

Mr. Manly: Instead of flying kites about a possible "youth corps" or "conservation corps" that may or may not be in the new Throne Speech, I would like to ask the Minister when he will meet his responsibility to our young people. When will the Government meet its responsibility to the forest industry and bring in a job-creation program which is not simply makeshift but will pay real dividends in the future?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I wish the Hon. Member opposite were more in touch with the facts than he obviously is. Youth unemployment is not at the level he has described. It is under 20 per cent.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Roberts: Second and more important, in relation to the subsequent question he posed the Government has already undertaken considerable efforts in the forest industry across the country, particularly in British Columbia and particularly with the utilization of Section 38 funds to create employment in the forest industry and to undertake work which is important in terms of the long-term interests of that industry.

The third thing the Hon. Member should know, but seems not to know, is that it is the provincial Government of British Columbia which withdrew from The Employment Bridging Assistance Program. The federal Government made up the provincial Government's shortfall in that program. Even though the program is supposed to come to an end very shortly, we are considering ways of supplementing it. His real criticism should be directed against the Government of British Columbia which has pulled the rug out from under the programs we have sponsored for direct and special assistance to the forest industry.

CANADA WORKS PROGRAM

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Would he agree that the British Columbia Government has cut back the social services programs and that in fact the federal Government has pulled the plug as well, because in the Canada Works Program money going to private initiatives means less money for social services? Would the Minister agree that he in fact pulled the rug from under social service programs which he was funding? Second, would he try to make one change which I will suggest to him, that is, allow co-operative business to get some of the Canada Works money?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, in answer to the first part of the question, absolutely not. As I have just said, the fact of the