

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

VIOLATIONS OF FISHERIES ACT ON KOOTENAY RIVER—
GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. As there have been violations of the federal Fisheries Act on the Kootenay River below Mica and there will follow similar violations if the Kootenay River diversion goes through, is the minister prepared to act other than through his provincial official with regard to federal legislation?

Hon. Len Marchand (Minister of State (Environment)): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the question as notice and study it very carefully.

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TRANSPORT

SUGGESTION FUNDS BE ADVANCED TO RAILWAYS TO BUY
EQUIPMENT AND ALLEVIATE UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question concerns a proposal I made to the Minister of Transport last July and which my leader made to the Minister of Finance during this parliament. I direct it to the Acting Prime Minister. There are a few thousand miles of railway lines in Canada that require upgrading. This will involve hundreds of steel rails, millions of ties, tie plates, anchors and so forth. In order to alleviate unemployment in the Atlantic provinces, particularly Cape Breton Island and Pictou county, will the government ensure that sufficient capital is advanced so that orders can be placed now by both the national railroads and Via Rail for the steel rails, equipment and other infrastructure that will be required over the next several years? That could be produced now and stockpiled in western Canada where it will be needed.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his suggestion. It is one upon which we have effectively acted already to the extent that it is reasonable. We have obtained \$100 million for the construction of branch lines in 1977 and 1978. That includes \$47 million for equipment which was ordered to be built at various plants across the country, including Hamilton and Trenton, Nova Scotia. In addition, Canadian National has taken some steps to advance orders and obtain rails ahead of their actual needs. The rail for the branch line program will largely be obtained in the prairies from those lines which the Hall commission recommended be abandoned. CN have been pursuing the matter of additional rail for their own on-going program, including double tracking where that is necessary, in line with the railway's very vigorous program of ensuring that all of the additional capacity for moving freight is available when it is needed. The railways have been doing a very good job on that. They should be applauded for ordering steel and rails in advance of their actual need.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGED SURVEILLANCE OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General.

I should like him to tell me whether there is any truth in the allegation made yesterday during the CBC French network news broadcast to the effect that for a number of years I have been under police surveillance. Have other hon. members been subjected to police surveillance over the past ten years?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the precise allegation made yesterday over the CBC French network. I am advised, however, that the hon. member was allegedly under the surveillance of the Quebec Police Force and not of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

As to the second part of his question, which is more general in scope, I feel that the Prime Minister has already provided the reply in a letter which he sent to the leaders of the opposition concerning the surveillance of House members.

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● (1502)

[English]

FISHERIES

DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC AREA—DATE OF MEETING
WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. According to the press of December 1, finishing touches have now been applied to the long awaited \$900 million fisheries development plan for Atlantic Canada. The plan is now in the hands of the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. Since this plan is purported to have the approval of all fisheries ministers in Atlantic Canada, again I would ask the minister if he has studied the plan, and if so, when does he plan to meet with provincial fisheries ministers to discuss the plan and hopefully implement some of it in order to put some of the unemployed citizens to work in Atlantic Canada?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that this plan was being sent to me. Over the weekend I was at a meeting for a day and a half with the minister of fisheries for Newfoundland. I suppose he did not have a copy of the plan with him, or he would have handed it to me then. At the moment I am depending upon my colleague, the hon. Postmaster General.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. According to the press, the plan purports to be concerned with broad economic terms which tie the industry to the economic