

*Oral Questions*

## INCO EMPLOYMENT LEVELS

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. I wholeheartedly endorse what the Minister of Employment and Immigration said. In light of the correct analysis which the Minister has given, what steps will the Prime Minister take to ensure that the employment levels at Inco will be kept at the present level?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** I could speak to the Leader of the Opposition who is a former director of Inco, I think.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** No, he wasn't.

**Mr. Mulroney:** I just wanted to find out if he was awake.

As the Minister of Employment has indicated, we will work carefully to make sure that corporations fulfil their social responsibility.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Like Iron Ore?

**Mr. Mulroney:** Pardon?

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Like Iron Ore?

**Mr. Mulroney:** Like Iron Ore, precisely, which we may use as a model of a program where there was no provincial or federal legislation. I had the honour of introducing and passing the most generous package for retirement in the history of Canada. That is what we are going to do.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear! More.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps we could stick to the answer.

**Mr. Mulroney:** And I then ran in the riding where Schefferville is and I won every poll.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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● (1450)

## CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

## SERVICE AT BLUE WATER BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CROSSING

**Mr. Ken James (Sarnia-Lambton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. It is reported that the customs complement at the international crossing at the Blue Water bridge is faced with a further reduction in personnel. Can the Minister assure me that we will find a solution, first, to the existing problem at this customs entry point, which causes a backlog of vehicles and hour-long delays, prior to any further reduction in personnel considerations?

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the concern of the Hon.

Member for Sarnia-Lambton with regard to the level of service and the problems that he has raised. I can tell him that I have already discussed the matter in a preliminary way with my officials. I will report back to him as soon as I have something of substance to tell him.

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## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

## SITUATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERY WORKERS

**Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I hope her answer to this one is as good as her answer to the last question put to her. It also concerns a disastrous situation that affects workers. There is a complete failure in the inshore fishery in Newfoundland. The Minister knows that. She knows that 50 per cent of the plant workers and fishermen will not have enough to qualify for benefits this winter. What is she going to do? Is she prepared now to take measures that were taken before, and announce a special work program so that people will not have to be demeaned by welfare this winter?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I say to the Hon. Member that we are well aware of this situation. We have been following that matter very carefully. We know of the water temperatures and the failure in some parts of the fishing industry this summer. My colleague, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, is monitoring the situation in an ongoing way. Let me say to the Hon. Member that it would be premature to announce action at this point before we have seen the results of the fall fishing season. That is why we are keeping a very close watch over the situation.

## REQUEST FOR WINTER WORKS PROGRAM

**Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador):** I would say to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, it is not the temperature of the water, it is the temperature of the fishermen I am concerned about. It is getting hotter. If we wait until the end of this season in November, it will be too late. We need money. We need it now. If the Minister waits, it will be too late. Will the Minister now announce a works program for this winter?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that we took action this past spring in light of the ice conditions. We did that as we evaluated what was happening on an ongoing basis. We are doing exactly the same thing now. We will be in a position to see how the fall fishing season produces.