

*Oral Questions***POST OFFICE***[English]***REQUEST THAT MINISTER TAKE CHARGE OF PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN**

**Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is addressed to the Minister of Justice in his capacity as Minister of State for Social Development. In our view Canada's children deserve an independent minister who will be their advocate and will report directly to cabinet, and will provide an independent budget for a children's bureau. Since the main function of the ministry of social development has been to cut back on social welfare programs rather than to initiate new programs such as are required for children, will the minister tell the House if he agrees with the recommendations of the health and welfare committee that he, himself, should be in charge of programs for children? If so, what does he intend to do to improve the lot of Canada's children?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development):** Madam Speaker, I have nothing to add to what the Minister of National Health and Welfare has replied. The report was received last week and we are in the process of studying it.

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**FISHERIES****LIMITATION ON SIZE OF REPLACEMENT VESSELS**

**Miss Coline Campbell (South West Nova):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. In view of the fact that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans uses fish stock quotas as a management tool in the Atlantic fisheries and has publicly expressed its commitment to improving the quality of Canada's fish products, why has the minister decided to implement a policy of limiting the size of replacement vessels to the size of those they replace, when this policy can be shown to be an inefficient fisheries management tool and will limit fishermen's ability to adopt technological improvements which may require larger vessels, and therefore actually interfere with the department's policy of improving the quality of catches?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, it is a well known fact for those who follow these matters, as I am sure the hon. member does, that the catching capacity considerably exceeds the biological capacity of our oceans. We are endeavouring to keep some control over the expansion of the fisheries.

There are some cases, however, where it would not be logical to maintain a foot-by-foot replacement policy. Following representations by a good number of members on both sides of the House, in particular on this side, I have asked my regional directors to look at where adjustment can be made and a tolerance be acceptable which in fact does not so much increase the capacity of catching as the quality enhancement of the catch.

**DELIVERY OF TAX REBATE CHEQUES TO YUKON RESIDENTS**

**Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Madam Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Postmaster General. Approximately 1,000 tax rebate cheques for residents of the Yukon are held up in the Vancouver district taxation office. These northern residents cannot receive delivery of their cheques. Just today in question period the Postmaster General reconfirmed the delivery of socioeconomic cheques to Canadians. The government has therefore made arrangements for delivery of UI cheques and pension cheques. What arrangement has the Postmaster General made for delivery of tax rebate cheques?

**Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, as I answered in the House last week, we have made arrangements for taking the refund cheques from the offices of my colleague, the Minister of Supply and Services, and distributing them to our district taxation offices across the country. Unfortunately we do not have those in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. I am consulting with the Minister of Supply and Services to see if there is some way we can efficiently do that. It is not as easy, though, because of the way refund cheques are processed. They are processed in a much different way from the normal social security transfer payments. I am actively working to see if we can come up with a means of doing that. In the meantime, if there is an emergency situation and somebody needs a cheque for an emergency, then I think we can find ways and means of getting it for them.

**TELEGRAM OFFERING SERVICES OF YUKON GOVERNMENT**

**Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Yes, Madam Speaker, there is an emergency when 1,000 residents of the Yukon are waiting for cheques. They are now paying 20 per cent at the bank for money. That is the emergency.

In view of the fact that the district office of the minister's department in Whitehorse was closed, and therefore those cheques cannot now be distributed from that point, the hon. Chris Pearson, leader of the government of the Yukon, has telexed to the minister offering any employee of his government, any service and any office, in order that those cheques can be distributed. What has the minister replied to Mr. Pearson? What arrangements have been made?

**Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, I have not seen that telegram, but when I do see it I will be glad to respond and take Mr. Pearson up on any offer to which we can reasonably respond.