

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the same Minister. Why is the Government not continuing negotiations on the science and technology projects connected with the general agreement signed with Quebec last year? Why?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, we are. The Hon. Member shakes his head. I do not know what he is talking about or what he is alluding to.

The fact of the matter is that our discussions with the Quebec Government were left to an entente last year. There are some things that the Quebec Government needs to get back to us about, but it is not complaining about any lack of progress. I do not know why the Hon. Member is.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

CHANGES IN PROGRAM—EFFECT ON FISH PLANT WORKERS

Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. As a result of the recently announced changes to the UI program there will be some 30,000 fish plant workers, most of them women, who will have to find additional employment if these proposed changes go through. In Newfoundland, fish plant workers receive benefits. With the minimum requirements across Canada going up, where will these workers find the extra work to qualify? Can the Minister assure this House that Atlantic Canadians will not be tossed on to the welfare rolls?

• (1440)

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this Government has the best job creation record in Atlantic Canada of any Government in the history of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. McDougall: Let me just remind the Hon. Member that there is \$15 million more going into Newfound-

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land as a result of this program. There is \$15 million more for Newfoundland next year.

Let me just read from *The Gander Beacon* in Newfoundland:

—18 trainees from the Gander-Fogo-Lewisporte area graduated from a six-month federally funded training program.

The program, run by the Newfoundland Career Academy, trained 18 young people to enter the work-force in banking, clerical and retail positions.

The local administrator said:

All of us involved with the program are happy with the results.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF REVIEW

Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, continuing with the fishermen, the Minister of Employment and Immigration confirmed on April 11 that there would be a review of the unemployment insurance scheme for fishermen.

Many of these fishermen are unaware of this review and what it could entail. They are concerned about how they will be affected. Will the Minister explain to all Canadian fishermen what this review will consist of, when it will take place and when we can expect a report.

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will ignore the fact that I am being royally misquoted and simply say that there is no contemplation of any changes for fishermen under this program.

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[Translation]

HOUSING

EXEMPTION OF SALES TAX FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF HOUSING—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Housing). The Minister is of course aware that members of the Canadian Real Estate Association are here in Ottawa, and that they are concerned about the fact that the Government might impose a national sales tax on the housing sector. The Minister may have said recently, on more than one occasion, that the new national sales tax would not increase the cost of housing, but he obviously has not convinced the sectors concerned.

An Hon. Member: He is reading!