

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry he is so detached about NATO which is a fairly important world organization. In light of the fact that the minister is not due back in the House for a week and since the meetings are concluded, will there be before the minister's return a statement in the House on those discussions and Canada's role therein?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

DIFFICULTY OF FISHERMEN DISCHARGED BY ACADIAN FISHERIES IN OBTAINING BENEFITS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I had a question I wanted to ask the Minister of Labour but perhaps in his absence I could direct it to his parliamentary secretary. It has to do with the fisheries union situation in the Maritimes. Why have such a large number of fishermen who were fired by Acadian Fisheries prior to the end of March experienced such unusual and prolonged difficulty in establishing benefits at the Unemployment Insurance Commission office in Nova Scotia?

Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): On the contrary, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the parliamentary secretary can answer the question briefly he will be allowed to do so, but the hon. member has asked a question in a form which I suggest is not acceptable. He is asking the government to explain why certain things have happened, and a question in those terms is not normally acceptable. Normally it should be replied to by way of a general statement on motions. However, as I have suggested, if the parliamentary secretary can answer briefly he will be allowed to do so by the Chair.

Mr. Perrault: Mr. Speaker, the Unemployment Insurance Commission found claims for 35 workers in this particular matter. Of these, four went off claim, six qualified for seasonal benefits, three qualified for regular benefits, nine qualified for year-round fishing benefits—druggers—and 13 did not qualify because of insufficient contributions. There is a very lively interest on the part of the Unemployment Insurance Commission in seeing that full justice is done these men.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

CHEMCELL LIMITED—MEASURES TO PREVENT CLOSING OF MONTMAGNY PLANT

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Would he say whether special steps have been taken to prevent the impending closing of the Chemcell plant in

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Inquiries of the Ministry

Montmagny which would result in the dismissal of some 200 workers?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I have learned, as the hon. member, of the eventual closing of the Chemcell plant in Montmagny. The company itself has made no request for assistance either to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce or to my department. And the main reason for the shutdown would be a market trend toward knitwear rather than fabrics.

So, Mr. Speaker, since the company has not requested any assistance, I do not see how I could run after it to give it assistance that it has not requested.

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[English]

YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS BY PROVINCES—JOBS CREATED

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. Since the selection of summer programs under the Opportunities for Youth program has now been completed, can the minister tell the House the amount of funds allocated to each province under the program?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I have already said that as soon as the complete list of all projects to be approved is ready, it will be tabled here, including the figures on distribution by regions.

[English]

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Is the minister now in a position to tell the House how many jobs have been created under the program to date?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, once again it would be an approximation since the figures will not be known exactly before the list is completed. Even then we shall not be able to tell how many jobs were created as a secondary effect of the program. But as for the jobs directly created, we shall give figures as precise as possible when I table the complete list of approved projects in the House.

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Would the minister tell us whether the people have been advised in some way that their projects had been approved?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, there are very few approved projects whose approval has not been communicated to their initiators. However, there are a few because, as I have already informed this House, we had to maintain some sort of a "cushion" in order to be able to meet unexpected requirements or situations. Therefore everything has not been completed, but I can say that there are very few projects concerning which the promoters have not been informed.