

as from Senator de Cotret, could the minister tell us whether he intends to announce immediately or very soon the decisions that his government will make as to the sums of money which will be invested in projects that have already been announced in Quebec and I am, of course, referring more particularly to the proposed fiscal data study centre in Jonquière?

Hon. Roch La Salle (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to answer the hon. member's question. That meeting was excellent. I would not venture to say that the Quebec ministers told us what their priorities were, but they told us about their projects in general. We listened to them as equals—

Some hon. Members: As equals!

Mr. La Salle: Yes, we listened to them as equals. The discussion was quite fruitful for both sides. That is something new for you, but not for us. The discussion left a good impression. Now, to give a very clear answer, the projects in question have not yet been announced, but they will be very soon, as the hon. member said.

Mr. Lessard: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. The minister is very satisfied with the results of the meeting, but according to some statements he made, his counterpart Mr. Landry, was a lot less satisfied with those results. He has nothing whatsoever against being consulted or against participating in a dialogue, but what he is mostly interested in is knowing the government's decision. Is the minister going to wait several months again before announcing his decision? Could the Minister of Public Works, who is smiling, go ahead soon, if he is authorized to do so, of course, and erect those buildings, because they will be needed?

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure the hon. member as well as Mr. Landry. It will not take several months.

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[English]

FISHERIES

COD QUOTAS ON HAMILTON BANK

Mr. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The hon. gentleman met yesterday with the Premier of Newfoundland and among other subjects discussed was the allocation of cod quotas on the Hamilton Bank.

Can the minister confirm that the position of the Premier of Newfoundland was that cod quotas be reserved exclusively for the inshore fishermen of Newfoundland and Labrador? Can the hon. gentleman tell us his response to that submission, and whether any agreement was reached between the premier and himself at the conclusion of their meeting? Can he report to the House the results of that meeting yesterday?

Oral Questions

Hon. James A. McGrath (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we had a very useful and co-operative meeting with the government of Newfoundland. I indicated it was our policy that primacy, or first call on the Hamilton Bank or northern cod stocks should be for the Newfoundland inshore fishermen, recognizing, of course, the importance of that cod stock to the maintenance of the north-east coast inshore fishery.

Mr. Rompkey: My supplementary is to the Prime Minister. We know the Prime Minister had a meeting with the Premier of Newfoundland on the question of the jurisdiction of offshore oil and gas and we are aware of the outcome of those discussions.

Can the right hon. gentleman tell us whether he has taken part in similar discussions with respect to jurisdiction over fish stocks, and can he tell us whether his position with regard to fish stocks would be the same as his position with respect to jurisdiction over offshore oil and gas?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not had a meeting with the Premier of Newfoundland to discuss the question raised by the hon. member, although the Minister of Fisheries has been meeting with Newfoundland officials, as he has just said, to discuss ways in which federal and provincial governments can co-operate to strengthen and develop the fisheries serving Newfoundland and Canada.

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[Translation]

ENERGY

INQUIRY WHEN PRIME MINISTER INTENDS TO ANSWER LETTER FROM MR. ROY (BEAUCE) ON OIL SUPPLIES TO INDEPENDENTS

Mr. Fabien Roy (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Late yesterday I sent him a letter concerning two very important matters. One has to do with the supply of gas and heating oil to the eastern provinces, the other with the supply and the securing of supply quotas to independent distributors. I have waited until the end of the question period. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether he has received my letter, whether he has read it and, third, whether he intends to take action on it today.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did receive the hon. member's letter. I even read it. I intend to speak later today during the debate which is to be opened by the Leader of the Opposition and which relates to the questions raised by the hon. member.