

S.O. 21

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY—MONTREAL REGION

Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, I have good news and bad news regarding the development of high-tech industries in the Montreal region. A study prepared by Fantus, a company in Chicago, for the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, to assess the suitability of the Montreal region as a location for high-tech industries, confirmed and showed that Canadian Government subsidies provide a significant advantage over other North American centres such as Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York. The federal Government has invested about \$2 billion during the last six months in the high-tech industry for the Montreal area. However—and this is the bad news—the study pointed out in a note from the Vice-President that the advantages of lower installation and operating costs tended to be offset by Quebec legislation that provides for higher taxes for executives, and also by the political uncertainty, certain government regulations such as Bill 17 and compulsory licences.

Mr. Speaker, we hope that these constraints which have had a definite influence on the decision of businesses to invest will be given serious attention. Mr. Lévesque's announcement that the election will be run on Quebec's independence is certainly not going to promote investment, either in the Montreal area or anywhere in the province.

Mr. Speaker, this is a serious matter, because thousands of jobs are involved.

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[English]

FISHERIES

PLIGHT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDUSTRY

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in British Columbia, where our forest economy is in crisis, the response of the Social Credit Government has been to lay off 500 forestry workers. This is like laying off the fire brigade in the middle of a fire. The Tories now want to get into the act. In Friday's debate on the crisis in the fishing industry in British Columbia, the Tory Member for Capilano (Mr. Huntington) suggested that the Fisheries Department had too many employees. He said: "Perhaps it is time to thin the operation out."

The Hon. Member for Capilano is not the fisheries critic for the Tories, but he is their Treasury Board critic. Last September he suggested that the entire Public Service should be cut back by 20 per cent.

● (1410)

The British Columbia economy is in a tail-spin and public sector lay offs have made matters worse. Some 15.2 per cent of our work force, over 200,000 people, are now officially unem-

ployed. By laying off forestry workers we destroy not only present jobs but future jobs. Now the Hon. Member for Capilano says that is what we need in fisheries. Already such areas as enforcement of habitat regulations are short of personnel. Unless we begin to protect habitat, we will not have any fisheries left.

The Liberal approach to the fisheries crisis is to eliminate fishermen, and the Tories want to eliminate public sector jobs. The people of Canada should know that both Liberals—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has expired.

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FINANCE

FUNDING FOR JOB-CREATION PROGRAMS—PETERBOROUGH SITUATION

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, Liberal MPs received \$500,000 each to create jobs in their ridings while Opposition MPs did not. This is a sleazy, porkbarrelling act, so crass in nature as to offend the most hardened citizen. In Peterborough, during 1983, the same period, I collected a list of \$460,000 worth of work for two projects submitted by Trent University, six projects from Sir Sandford Fleming College, nine from the volunteer sector, including Planned Parenthood Resource Centre, Women Against Assault, a program for psychiatric patients at the Civic Hospital, the YMCA usage study, job creation for senior citizens, conservation programs, YWCA programs and skills, Native Alliance needs and assessment, to name but a few. This \$460,000 in Peterborough would have created 84 permanent jobs, and 1,514 work weeks for some of the projects, and all this for federal funding of only \$460,000. Why do Liberal Members of Parliament get \$500,000 and Members in Conservative ridings receive zilch?

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[Translation]

POLITICAL PARTIES

ALLEGED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ANTI-CLARK CAMPAIGN

Mr. Gaston Gourde (Lévis): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition forgot to answer four questions that were put to him last Monday during the period set aside for Members' statements.

I would therefore ask him again to clarify several facts of national interest. Was the Leader of the Opposition aware of the alleged payment of \$25,000 or \$250,000 by Mr. Wolf, a non-resident, to an anti-Clark coalition, when the Leader of the Opposition and his friend, Michel Cogger, gave their support to the ex-Leader, the Member for Yellowhead, at the end of 1982? Could he inform the House even if he was not aware of the fact, which I doubt, whether he supports such action by a non-resident?