

Oral Questions

Report is because there are so many opinions, and conflicting ones, whereas the one unanimous recommendation in the Forget Commission Report was with respect to the rescinding of the pension income regulation? It took the Government three years to come up with a realistic policy. With all the good intentions he expressed on Friday, he has created second-class veterans by giving moderate help to those who can obtain a second job and by not giving any help to those who need it most, those who cannot get a job.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Government, through the Minister of Employment and Immigration, has incessantly answered over the last two weeks—or since the report was tabled—that implementation of a Forget Report recommendation in any form would have to be studied by the Government. In this specific matter of early retirees and pensions, we have considered independently . . . Mr. Forget made his recommendation. It was my intention that we provide a response very rapidly in a way that would take the whole issue into consideration.

The principle put forward by the Government in November 1984, that workers should apply for unemployment insurance benefits when they are unemployed has not changed. We did not create second-class citizens. We have simply been applying that principle, making adjustments wherever groups of people, including those who took up a second career, could be entitled to unemployment insurance benefits.

* * *

[English]

FISHERIES

OFFSHORE TUNA FISHERY POLICY

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns Tunagate, Take 2. Is it just a coincidence that the lawyer for Bayshore Tuna Ltd., Mr. John Grant, just happens to be the former President of the Nova Scotia Tories? Is this just not another case of patronage exploding in the face of the Government? If it is a new policy which the Minister was announcing a while ago in this House regarding offshore fishing, why is it that it is a Tory again who is the beneficiary of a new policy rather than the general public of Canada?

Mr. Ricard: Why not?

Mr. Boudria: Some Tories here ask why not.

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I think Canadian fishermen are pleased that we

have a Government which is pursuing new options to create an income and employment opportunity for them by harvesting fish that have been previously left in the water.

Mr. Riis: Name one.

Mr. Siddon: I would accept the same request from the Premier or the Government of any province to undertake to develop a new offshore fishery rather than let those fish swim out of Canadian waters uncaught. That is money in the pockets of fishermen.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, it sounds as if we were given a blue option in this case. I have a feeling of *déjà vu* with respect to this issue.

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Will the Deputy Prime Minister tell the House why the Government once again has listened to a provincial Premier and a Conservative lobbyist, against the advice of its own officials? Lastly, will the Government tell us whether it is a national Conservative trait to put both feet in it whenever possible?

[English]

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind the Hon. Member that these are indeed bluefin tuna.

Mr. McDermid: Even the fish are Conservatives.

Mr. Siddon: That's right; and there are more of them, too.

The fact of the matter is that under the rules of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna, Canada is given a quota. This year, by the end of the year, we will have fished only one-tenth of that quota because we do not have the offshore capacity to catch these fish. I make no apologies for having Canadian fishermen and our officials onboard Japanese vessels to find out how they are catching fish we cannot catch.

* * *

SUPPLY AND SERVICES

GOVERNMENT'S PURCHASE OF MEAT FROM GAINERS INC.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Supply and Services. Would the Minister not agree that by purchasing a large order of meat from Gainers Inc., Peter Pocklington's firm in Alberta, the federal Government is in fact taking the side of Gainers in a strike about which even the Premier of Alberta has said that Gainers is being unfair to its workers?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Supply and Services is not in the