

*Oral Questions***OLYMPIC COINS**

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance and Privatization. The government has known for a long time the banks will not accept the Olympic coins issued at the time of the 1976 Olympics or the 1988 Olympics for their face value or in any way at all.

These coins were issued, as the minister knows, on the undertaking by the government that the coins were true coins of the realm, they would always be worth their face value. They were issued at a premium but they would always be worth their face value as a good investment. Is the government prepared to redeem these coins at face value?

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, as the member knows because he has been kept right up to date, this matter is actively being pursued by the Department of Finance. I can assure him however that the stability of the Canadian currency is not based on the value of Olympic coins.

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FISHERIES

Mr. Ray Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and relates to the fact that the deputy minister negotiated with aboriginal nations in British Columbia a number of co-management agreements in the fishing industry. The deputy then reneged on those agreements and has refused to meet with the aboriginal nations concerned.

Would the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans order the deputy minister to go to British Columbia to meet with those aboriginal nations, to complete those fisheries co-management agreements, and then honour them?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the assumptions or suggestions of fact contained in that question.

The Deputy Minister of Fisheries and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Fisheries were both in British Columbia last week. They have done a first-class job of

conciliating and dealing with the various conflicting interests in the fishery in British Columbia, including the aboriginal peoples.

They will meet with aboriginal leaders from time to time as that is required. I certainly have no intention of issuing such instructions on such un specifics. The member's question lacks all specificity and all decency and all truth.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, perhaps to offer some specifics, the minister will be well aware that the Shuswap Nation in the interior of British Columbia has operated for the past 10 years in good faith with the co-operative management programs of the department.

They just learned from the deputy minister that their fisheries program which is funding for fish stock production and enhancement activities will be cut by in excess of \$1 million this fiscal year. This will put their entire fisheries program in jeopardy and make it impossible for their hatchery, which was a training hatchery, to be able to continue.

On those two specifics would the minister indicate a willingness at least to meet with representatives of the Shuswap Nation to discuss these cuts and the implications this would have in terms of their future co-management production?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately or fortunately, we have disciplines imposed upon us with respect to the amount of money that is available for various purposes so we cannot always spend all of the money on good causes that we would like to spend.

However, we do not spend our time straddling every issue. It is a miracle to see how the NDP are such expert straddlers. On the one hand they are supporters of the aboriginal interests and on the other hand whenever there is any complaint from any other conflicting interest or the fishery, they write to me and support the other conflicting interest too. Get your act together.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.