

Oral Questions

jobs in the Canadian economy. If one were to limit oneself to the description in the Hon. Member's question, one would have to say that Japan is following our example, not leading it.

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MULTICULTURALISM**FUNDING OF NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRES**

Hon. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. As he knows, he made an announcement of a change in programs for migrating Indians. Until now the new program announced in the spring has not had the financing it needs to come into place. When will the Secretary of State be able to get his program through Treasury Board so that new programs can come into place in Native Friendship Centres across Canada?

Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State): Madam Speaker, I am happy to inform the Hon. Member and the House that the points which have to be dealt with to ensure that the announcement made in the month of May could be implemented were dealt with yesterday, due in particular to the intervention of the Hon. President of the Treasury Board and the Minister of Finance. It is my intention to write today to all Centres across Canada to inform them that the announcement made in May will be fully honoured and implemented by the Government of Canada.

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FISHERIES**FUTURE OF RESTRUCTURED NEWFOUNDLAND FISHING COMPANY**

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. On July 4 the Minister announced the take-over of the Newfoundland offshore trawler fishery, with the jobs and livelihoods of thousands of plant workers, trawler fishermen and inshore fishermen at stake. Four months have passed since then, and the Government has spent its time fighting with the Newfoundland Government and the shareholders of those companies, and sales have been lost to the United States.

When will action be taken to put someone in charge of this new company? When will there be some central direction so that decisions can be made on the budget for 1984? When will there be decisions on fish quotas for that new company? When will decisions be made on refitting trawlers for northern fishing, and refitting the fish plant at Trepassey so that it can reopen? In other words, when will action be taken to start operations, because everything is at a standstill in that area at the moment?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I am really surprised, for a Member representing Newfoundland, that he is one of the few people who is

not aware of what is going on. Mr. Peckford signed an agreement which he hailed as being the most important bilateral agreement signed by Newfoundland since it joined Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. De Bané: That was done under the leadership of the Prime Minister. Today Mr. Peckford and I announced that all the legal action taken by CDC has been resolved to the mutual satisfaction of both Governments. As to the question of the appointment of the new presidency of the company, both Governments are working closely together on a short list of names which we will put before our two Cabinets. Finally, I am happy to tell the Hon. Member that I have every confidence the new company will be in operation starting with the next fishing season, that is, January 1, 1984.

Mr. Crosbie: I never asked what agreements were signed. I asked what action was being taken. I know that there are 500 people out of work at Trepassey, 400 people out of work at Fermeuse, and hundreds more out of work these last four months while the Minister fiddled around retrofitting agreements.

REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPANY PLANS

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister when the plant at Trepassey will be put into operation. When will there be a managing director of this new operation? When will it be financed? When will he tell them what are their fish quotas so that they can use their trawler fleet next year? In other words, when will people start to work, or are they to lose all hope altogether? I know what is happening in Newfoundland. It is not the dream world the Minister is occupying up here in Ottawa.

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is definitely an unguided missile.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. De Bané: When he accuses me of fiddling around, actually he is accusing Premier Peckford of fiddling around because Mr. Peckford is now working very solidly with the federal Government on that issue.

As to the question of fishing quotas, I am happy to tell the Hon. Member that I have said publicly we will give the new company a five-year enterprise allocation so that it will know for five years ahead what will be its fishing allocations.

Mr. Crosbie: When? When will they know?

Mr. De Bané: When? When I receive—

Mr. Crosbie: They are out of work in Fermeuse, Trepassey, and in other places.

Madam Speaker: Order, please.