

that the next Budget will announce concrete new programs to help close down all food banks and not family farms?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think we have been progressing quite well, as those statistics have pointed out. We still have a way to go and one of the things that we are using is the GST credit. We have also through tax reform in 1988 taken 850,000 low income people off the tax rolls. These are two major initiatives on the tax side, income tax and sales tax, which are directly designed to help the people she is talking about. Surely she should acknowledge that. I would hope that tomorrow, when she is speaking to the people in Toronto, she will draw these very real pieces of evidence of progress to their attention.

\* \* \*

### FISHERIES

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. The people of Canso feel humiliated and betrayed by this government after learning the details of the so-called plan to save the Canso fish plant, a plan that was dangled before them with so much fanfare on Friday. What galls them most is that the trawler port in Canso is to remain closed and the Canso fleet moved elsewhere. On December 13 the Prime Minister promised in this House to look into a suggestion that would require a company which closes a fish plant to keep the trawlers at the plant or not fish.

Has the Prime minister looked into this suggestion? Will he now order his Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to apply this requirement to Canso and keep the trawler boats fishing from that port?

• (1510)

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I am a little disappointed at the reaction of my colleague opposite to the situation in Canso in his constituency. What we had a week ago was a town with no hope and a fish plant that was slated to close. What we have now is a town with a fish plant that is going to stay open, employ at least 300 people and which has some hope for the future, thanks to a corporate decision

### Oral Questions

by National Sea which has brought in a revised operational plan. I do not understand the attitude of my colleague opposite.

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, the minister should tell that to the people of Canso.

[Translation]

My supplementary question is still for the Prime Minister. He knows that the fish assigned to the big companies under the program of grants to business still belongs to Canadians and not to the companies themselves. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has the legislative right to attach conditions to these allocations. Will the Prime Minister finally assume his responsibilities and order his Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to ensure that the trawlers from Canso continue to use that port?

[English]

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, what my hon colleague is asking the Prime Minister and this government to do is bring in an entirely new concept to fisheries, port quotas. This is something that could be studied, but it is not the way things are done in the fishing industry in this country, as he knows.

\* \* \*

### PRESENCE IN GALLERY

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw to the attention of hon. members the presence in the gallery of the Standing Orders Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador, led by their chairman, Mr. Jim Walsh, Member of the House of Assembly.

\* \* \*

### FISHERIES

**Hon. William Rompkey (Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also about National Sea Products. It is directed to the Prime Minister. National Sea is in St. John's today to offer what everybody, including the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and most important the plant workers, consider a shabby deal and a slick ploy. The anger of the plant workers in St. John's is symptomatic of a growing anger and a growing fear for the future among Atlantic Canadians.