

INDUSTRY

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CANADA PACKERS' PLANT IN
CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Small Business in the absence of the Minister responsible for Regional Development. Canada Packers in Charlottetown has recently announced that it plans to close its plant next September. The plant is Prince Edward Island's largest private sector employer. Will the Minister tell the House whether the Government of Canada has received any kind of overture from Canada Packers Incorporated for Government assistance with the building or expansion of any facility, similar to the one in Charlottetown, elsewhere in Canada? In the event it has, will the Minister agree that it is utterly senseless for the Government of Canada to be assisting industry, in effect, to transfer jobs from one part of the country to another, rather than creating new employment?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, I am not aware of the situation. I am not aware that any representation has been made, but I will certainly consult with my colleague and report to the Hon. Member.

QUERY RESPECTING NEGOTIATIONS TO KEEP PLANT OPEN

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister responsible for Regional Development I will direct my supplementary question to an Acting Minister, probably the Minister of Veterans Affairs who has special Cabinet responsibility for this particular area. Is the Government of Canada pursuing with the Government of Prince Edward Island, and with Canada Packers, options for keeping open Canada Packers' plant in Charlottetown instead of having it close in September as scheduled?

Madam Speaker: I am sorry; I was a little distracted by documents being presented to me. I have the impression that the Hon. Member was asking a question of the Minister of Veterans Affairs because he comes from Charlottetown. It is not his ministerial responsibility. That question should be addressed to another Minister.

Mr. McMillan: Madam Speaker, in the event, may I address the same question to the Minister responsible for Small Business, although the Minister for Veterans Affairs has particular responsibilities for negotiations concerning Canada Packers on Prince Edward Island.

[Translation]

Mr. André Maltais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional

Royal Assent

Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, the Department knows about the problem of Canada Packers in Prince Edward Island, and as I already pointed out to the Hon. Member two weeks ago, contacts have been made and there are ongoing programs that can help both the company and its employees. Discussions are being held at the present time, and as these evolve, it will be possible to inform the Hon. Member further. The Department is aware of the situation and is taking all possible action to help the people concerned.

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[English]

FISHERIES

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF PACIFIC FLEET RATIONALIZATION
PLAN

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The Minister has challenged the fishermen in British Columbia to come up with recommendations that are alternatives to Doctor Pearse's commission of inquiry recommendations, particularly those concerning a reduction in the fleet. Would the Minister now be prepared to release to the public the Pacific fleet rationalization plan which might help in that attempt to meet some alternatives? He has had this report for one month now.

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I shall take the question as notice.

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● (1500)

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Government House
Ottawa

December 16, 1982

Madam:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Brian Dickson, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 16th day of December, 1982, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be
Madam,
Your obedient servant,
Jacques Noiseux
Deputy Secretary
to the Governor General