

to this problem is to change the regulations in connection with the number of weeks of fishing required in order to obtain benefits. Obviously, if we are talking about that kind of approach to the fishing situation, we could not apply that generally to a whole range of other occupations.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALGARY AND CAPE BRETON—EXTENT OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration who will know that the city of Calgary has had an unemployment rate greater than the national average for several months in a row. In that context, Canada Works and the LEAD Program will be providing \$500,000 for 40,000 unemployed people in that city. That is \$12.50 a year per unemployed person. In the meantime, in Cape Breton, the Minister is providing \$6,509,000 for 11,000 unemployed people, or \$591.72 per person.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. This enumeration of statistics, I suppose, is going to lead to a question, but it must do so immediately.

Mr. Hawkes: Madam Speaker, is that the Minister's view of Liberal justice? Is that his view of Liberal fair pay? Does he think that candidates in western Canada will be proud to go on the hustings with that kind of information to convince western Canadians to stay in this country?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, as I have explained to the House, the allocations are based on a formula which has been communicated quite clearly to Members. That formula essentially reflects the labour surplus in each of the constituencies, either over a short-term period if we are discussing Canada Works, or over a four-year period if we are talking about the LEAD Program. The same formula is applied to all constituencies and produces results which are sometimes more favourable or less favourable to constituencies depending upon what the labour surplus has been.

Mr. Hawkes: Madam Speaker, with those kinds of explanations I think youth unemployment will be higher than the Liberal standing in the Gallup fairly quickly.

Mr. Deans: It is already higher.

RATIO OF GRANTS PROVIDED CALGARY AND CAPE BRETON

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, I ask the Minister as clearly as I can whether or not he thinks it is fair to provide the people in Cape Breton with 47 times as much money per unemployed person as he provides in the city of Calgary? Is that the Liberals' idea of a just and fair formula for allocating employment funds?

Oral Questions

Mr. Lalonde: Get your figures right.

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Yes, Madam Speaker, I think the formula is fair because it does focus the funds into those areas where there is the greatest need as defined by the labour surplus rate.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

SENATE REPORT ON MARITIME COMMAND

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. In June of this year the Senate Subcommittee on National Defence issued a report on Canada's Maritime Command, which used to be called the Navy, which was in effect a devastating critique of Canada's naval capabilities. The Minister has had this report for four months. Is his Department preparing a response? If so, when might it be made public? If not, why not?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, first of all I would like to congratulate the Hon. Member on his having been made official Opposition defence critic and his having been recognized to ask his first question.

Indeed, Madam Speaker, there has been a report tabled in the Senate and a response is being prepared. I have been urging that the response be brought forward as rapidly as possible, and of course, it would be dealt with in the Senate because that is where the initial report was tabled.

Mr. Andre: Madam Speaker, I would just remind the Minister that he was not here one day and I asked a question of the Prime Minister.

STRENGTH OF NAVAL FORCES

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, after examining Canada's naval capabilities the Subcommittee reached the inescapable conclusion, which many other people have reached, that the Navy, in both current and projected manpower and equipment, simply cannot fulfil the country's defence objectives. Is it the Minister's intention to press for more resources for Maritime Command or the Navy? Alternatively, does he feel that the ten warships to which we will be reduced, basically, by 1992, are sufficient to defend 59,000 miles of coastline?

● (1430)

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I do not accept the allegation made by the Hon. Member relating to the number of warships we will have in 1992. As he knows, we have met the time frame that we had identified relating to the replacement of the first six frigates, the St. Lawrence class; the contract has been let and the Government is seeing to its responsibilities relating to the capacity of the maritime forces. As well, we welcome the