

misconception as to where the authority and responsibility lie for the administration of that fishery. We are going to have further discussions so that the arrangements between the federal Government and the Ontario Government are clearly perceived and set out.

HARDSHIPS TO FISHERMEN

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister indicate whether there was discussion about conditions which the federal Government might include in any agreement with Ontario to ensure that any of the hardships which have been created, because of the manner in which the quotas have been implemented in Ontario, will be eliminated?

Hon. John A. Fraser (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will know that the federal jurisdiction in this regard is primarily and fundamentally to ensure that the stocks of fish are maintained and enhanced, and it is most clearly not, in view of the delegated authority to the Province of Ontario, the administration of quotas or other arrangements which are directed by the Government of Ontario with respect to the fishermen. Therefore, we agreed that that distinction must be very clearly understood by all fishermen and by the public generally, who, of course, have a very understandable concern in the matter.

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THE CENSUS

CANCELLATION OF 1986 CENSUS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister, and it concerns the "great hotel caper" which informed us that Manitoba was not to build its hopes on getting an extra \$72 million in federal equalization payments which had been previously requested. Recognizing that the census is used as the base for establishing equalization payments, will the Prime Minister tell us whether the cancellation of the census was in fact part of a scheme by his Minister of Finance to reduce or shortchange payments to the provinces?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could address the answer to my hon. friend. I would like to indicate to the Hon. Member, as I have indicated in the past, that we are well acquainted with the fact that the Government requires certain data and information in order to make its decisions, including provincial population data, and so forth, for the Minister of Finance.

We have great confidence in the professionals at Statistics Canada to use a variety of techniques in order to gather this information, be it statistical surveys, polling, administrative data, census or a whole lot of other areas. We will guarantee that the Minister of Finance, and other Ministers who require such information, will obtain the information as accurately as

Petitions

possible and in a most cost effective method, so that the concerns of the Hon. Member will be addressed.

[Translation]

STATISTICS CANADA REPORT

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, how can the Minister give the House this answer today, when a Statistics Canada report dated August 1983 says the following, and I quote:

He concluded that it was not feasible and that there was no other solution but to hold the 1986 census.

Could the Minister explain the apparent contradiction with the StatsCan text?

• (1500)

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I reiterate that, after much consultation with some very able StatsCan professionals, they have assured me, and I have great confidence in them, that all of the information the Government requires to make proper policy decisions will be obtained. The Hon. Member has my assurance on that.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

PETITIONS

VIA RAIL—SERVICE IN CASSELMAN

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition.

To the Honourable the House of Commons in Parliament assembled:

We the undersigned residents of Canada now avail ourselves of our ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your Honourable House will therefore provide a remedy.

We humbly sheweth:

That the Via Rail Company having chosen to make changes in the services provided to the community of Casselman, Ontario, that the same company having neglected to provide adequate notice to the population and its Member of Parliament and that such changes—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: With great respect, when I rise the Hon. Member should wait until I have something to say. I have to advise him that the explanations for petitions—