

Oral Questions

of intimidation, fear of picket lines and some of the acts of their leaders, they do not want to go back to work. I am not going to penalize all these people. This section will be applied, but in fairness to all workers. It will be applied justly.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

FISHERIES

INQUIRY AS TO NUMBER OF HERRING DRAW-NET FISHING
LICENCES TO BE ISSUED IN QUEBEC

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, in the last few days hon. members of the opposition have been fishing around about the McDonald commission; I should therefore like to do the same with regard to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Chaleur Bay. My question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. I should like to advise him that the people of Gaspé are happy to participate in the national program for the promotion of fish products. However, it is impossible to promote a product such as herring since the minister has yet to issue the licences to both the fishermen and the fishing boats in the province of Quebec. Does the minister feel that the riches of the Gulf of St. Lawrence belong as much to Quebeckers as to maritimers, and does he expect to announce soon the number of licences that will be issued in Quebec for herring draw-net fishing since Quebec fishermen would like to have their share of the Canadian quotas?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the representations of the hon. member and some of his colleagues in the last few weeks in this regard have led me to reassess completely herring fishing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence for the coming season. I trust we shall be able to make changes which, up to a point, will go against the proposed objectives. On the other hand, I must say to the hon. member that quotas are not at all allotted on the basis of geography, and provincial boundaries. On the contrary, it happens that some fisheries develop well in certain areas, for instance, tuna in Prince Edward Island, and very little in other parts of the maritimes. In the case of herring, we find considerable development in New Brunswick but rather little in the immediate vicinity. In the case of shrimps, there is much development in the Matane area but less elsewhere. We shall try to be fair with everyone but I must say to the hon. member that I shall resist allotting quotas on a strictly provincial basis.

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[English]

FINANCE

TAX RECOMMENDATIONS OF ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF CANADA

Mr. Bob Rae (Broadview): Mr. Speaker—

[Mr. Lamontagne.]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rae:—I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In its annual report released this morning the Economic Council recommended a selective reduction in personal income taxes, a cut in the federal sales tax and a major federal-provincial capital works program, all of which this party has been recommending that the government bring in to deal with the serious problems of slow growth and high unemployment in the country. Does the minister agree with the recommendations of the Economic Council of Canada?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have a new adviser in the House today.

Mr. Gillies: You can use all the advice you can get.

Mr. Chrétien: I have read the recommendations of the Economic Council. I met with the Conference Board but the hon. member for Ottawa Centre was not there.

Mr. Alexander: He is here now.

Mr. Chrétien: I met with the C. D. Howe Institute, and I will meet with other advisers. That will help me to make up my mind for the budget next month, and I will also take note of the views of the hon. member.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I may be a new boy in town, but I think I can recognize when a question has not been answered.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rae: Since I have been appointed an adviser to the minister, I should like to draw his attention to the fact that the Economic Council has also stated that the federal government's austerity and cutback program would require a sustained increase in private spending which would be unprecedented in the last 50 years in Canada. If the minister does agree with the council's analysis, and if he does agree with my advice, will he reconsider and suspend the government's present policy of restraint and cutback which is only increasing unemployment insurance payments and welfare expenditures?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, one piece of advice I will not take from that corner of the House is that we should impose exchange controls in Canada at this time. I am glad that the hon. member now says he does not recommend that, but that is exactly what the hon. member for Waterloo-Cambridge is recommending all the time on television.

However, I will consider the advice of the Economic Council. I will make up my mind, and I am sure that whatever I do, the hon. member will be very quick to disagree on the night of the budget.