

for small businesses. Will the Minister of State (Small Businesses) ask his colleague the Minister of Finance to increase the assistance to small businesses, as requested by the *Conseil du patronat du Québec*?

[English]

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the hon. member that the small business community is now starting to understand the tremendous advantages of the GST for cash flow. On the question of cash flow, the input tax credits will mean that service businesses, as well as manufacturing businesses, will have sources of cash flow more instantly than they have under the present manufacturers' sales tax.

More important, we are going to have a streamlined accounting system, special deductions under the capital cost allowance to put in new equipment, and Revenue Canada task forces helping the small business community take advantage of the GST. This is all good news. The small business community of Canada is starting to recognize this and support it.

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard):** Mr. Speaker, it proves that the minister is not talking to small business people.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. The *Conseil du patronat du Québec* also stated in their brief that the one-time \$1,000 credit is quite inadequate to compensate small businesses for the administrative costs they will incur while applying the GST. Once and for all, will the Minister listen to small businesses and provide them with the necessary assistance to face the administrative nightmare resulting from the GST?

[English]

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has been careful to listen to the small business community on this. In fact, when he made his changes to the GST, they reflected further the listening that he and the government have done.

### Oral Questions

We have the \$1,000 administration fee. We have the changes in the capital cost allowance. We have the streamlined accounting. We have the rebate for the accommodation industry. We have change after change.

Some of them seem small but they are very important to the small business community. As a result of that we have been listening and we will continue to listen.

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### FISHERIES

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who has been saying, along with the offshore fish companies, that the crisis in the Atlantic fishery is one of too many fishermen chasing too few fish.

The trawlermen who work the offshore vessels have a different story. When the minister met recently in Canso with the trawlermen on National Seas' offshore vessels, they provided him with evidence, including photographs, of large quantities of fish being dumped at sea.

Can the minister tell the House what he has done since that meeting to investigate this potentially devastating information?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, as soon as I was provided with that information by the trawlermen, I asked officials in the department about the situation of the fish stock. What the member has to acknowledge here is that the issue is whether there is a lot of fish or not enough.

There are divergent views on the stock. I invite the hon. member to talk with the fishermen in South West Nova and in all of Atlantic Canada to check their catch rate. I think the hon. member will have his answer.

[Translation]

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure the minister understood my question. It concerned Canso trawler fishermen who said that huge quantities of fish are unloaded on the high seas.