

a year of discussion with the Minister's advisory committee, why was it necessary for Senator Austin to pull the rug out from under the Minister's feet and to appoint his own person to do a further study of what should be done on the West Coast, after all these years of study after study?

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has distorted the facts, as usual. The appointment of a new Associate Deputy Minister to the Department has been done at my request. He is a very welcome addition to the senior echelon of the Department. Actually, if I looked at the past year, all of them are in new positions. The Hon. Member should realize that the question of the Pacific fishery has a very high priority within my Department. As I said to the advisory council, any solution will have to be one that involves the participants in the sector and does not count on the taxpayers to resolve the problem.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON FLEET RATIONALIZATION

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** With respect, Mr. Speaker, I have not distorted the facts. It is well known on the West Coast that Senator Austin lost all patience with the criticism that was appearing against the Department in the press, and moved in Cabinet. The consequence is Mr. Stein. How long will Mr. Stein take to examine what has already been thoroughly examined? Also, what happened to the recommendations of the Minister's advisory committee with respect to fleet rationalization and buy-back?

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that when the Opposition does not have an issue, it tries to fabricate one. The official to whom the Hon. Member is referring, reports to the Deputy Minister, who reports to me, and I report to the full Cabinet. Therefore, I do not understand all the fuss that the Hon. Member is making.

● (1500)

As for the question of the reduction of the fleet on the Pacific coast, I repeat what I have said already, months ago, that if, in order to allow the participants in the fishery to finance a reduction of the fishing effort, they need a legal mechanism, a royalty system, whereby those who will remain in the fishery will finance those who will get out, I will study with great sympathy any request in that direction. However, they should be very cautious about asking the taxpayers to pay for a reduction of the fleet.

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#### EMPLOYMENT

##### CANADA WORKS PROGRAM—HIRING REGULATIONS

**Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The hiring regulations for federal works programs in

#### Petitions

Newfoundland, and I imagine right across Canada, discriminate against those people who have no income at all, and make it virtually impossible for a young person to get employment. Would the Minister consider intervening to lift these stupid restrictive hiring practices which were introduced in consultation with the provincial Governments for the NEED Program and, unfortunately, continued on with for the Canada Works Program?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** I would like to thank the Hon. Member, Mr. Speaker, for his helpful and interesting question. I am delighted to see that his pertinent commentary has received such support from the opposition Members. I am not entirely sure that the Hon. Member has not exaggerated to some degree the extent and depth of the problem—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Roberts:** —but I do know that in his own particular area there have been some great difficulties caused by the impact of these restrictions, however necessary and useful they may be across the country. I will examine his concern with great care and see whether there is some method of responding to the substance of his concern, even if it is not possible to do it in exactly the way he has recommended to us.

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#### PETITIONS

##### TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Monday, January 16, 1984, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

#### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

#### PETITIONS

##### MR. MURPHY—ADVERTISING OF LITERACY COURSES

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of the Flin Flon Chamber of Commerce. In their petition to the House of Commons the Flin Flon Chamber of Commerce speaks about the high rate of adult illiteracy in Canada at this time and calls upon the federal Government to initiate an advertising campaign through the electronic media to advertise literacy courses and to help upgrade the skills of many Canadians who suffer from illiteracy at the present time.