

recognize that, which has done work elsewhere such as at Valdez, Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. It has acquired experience and that experience is very valuable, and it is being used now. I think this is the best use of experience and knowledge around the world, and Canadians should not be so narrow-minded that they are not willing to recognize that occasionally other people in the world know a little bit more than they do about some things, like underwater drilling.

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### AGRICULTURE

#### FARMERS' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT—AMENDING LEGISLATION

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture who realizes that conditions like those depicted in John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" are beginning to appear in certain parts of rural Canada. If the Minister is serious about taking steps to ensure that the family farm maintains its position in Canadian agriculture and taking steps against the banks of Canada, is he prepared to bring forward for second reading Bill C-653, an Act to amend the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, to allow family farms to stay in place in Canada during these very difficult times? I can assure him through you, Madam Speaker, that he would have full support from the New Democratic Party for rapid passage of this Bill.

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, I had discussions yesterday with the Liberal Member for Lambton-Middlesex who sponsored the Bill, and I understand he is trying to make arrangements so that the Bill can be brought in, in some form. I support the principle of the Bill.

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### IMMIGRATION

#### LICENSING OF CONSULTANTS

**Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. With the downturn in immigration into Canada there are a number of so-called immigration consultants popping up all over the place, providing so-called expert advice. Has the Minister given any consideration at all to the licensing of the legitimate immigration consultants here in Canada?

• (1200)

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I think the Hon. Member points out a serious problem and one that we have been examining. As he knows, we commissioned some reports from the Immigration Task Force, specifically on what to do about immigration consultants. On the question of licensing, the problem we discovered is that it falls between federal and

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provincial jurisdictions. It could be corrected through an amendment to the Immigration Act. We are looking into that and hope that the legislative timetable for the next year will give us an opportunity to do so.

In the meantime we are establishing a number of specific administrative procedures to try to correct the problem. One is to provide alternative sources of information in areas of heavy concentration of immigration applications. We have developed a new series of brochures and pamphlets that we are prepared to issue which will give people more complete information. As well, we have been working very closely with my colleague, the Solicitor General and the RCMP, to undertake prosecutions of those people who have very directly contravened the law and have given out bad advice.

I thank the Hon. Member for his observations and I can make the commitment to him that we will continue to work as hard as we can to correct the problem.

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### FISHERIES

#### PUBLICATION OF KIRBY REPORT—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON RECOMMENDATIONS

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. It seems to be common knowledge that the Kirby Report is to be made public on Thursday of next week. May I ask the Minister whether, prior to that or at the same time, he will make a statement on what parts of the report have been accepted by the Government? Will the Government make an announcement to that effect and, if so, on what day will it be made?

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, I am putting the final touch to a statement in that regard. I hope that early next week I can give the Hon. Member the precise date on which the report will be made public.

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### RAILWAYS

#### MARITIME FREIGHT RATES ACT—GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Apparently the Department of Transport has engaged a firm of consultants to canvas the views of Maritime businessmen with respect to the Maritime Freight Rates Act. May I ask the Minister what his Department intends with respect to this study? There is a growing fear that we may lose our eastern Crow in its present form in the Maritime Freight Rates Act. Is there any validity to the suggestion that this is the direction in which the Government is heading?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I hope we are talking about the same thing; the