

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we fully intend to make sure our tourist industry, as well as other industry in Canada, is competitive with our major source of tourist inflow into Canada and with our major trading partner, the United States. We will keep a competitive advantage. That is the policy of this government, one we will undertake and continue to carry out.

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FISHERIES

FREEZER-TRAWLER LICENCES OFF EAST COAST

Mr. Charles Haliburton (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed, through you, to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. I was down in my riding last weekend, and it is a beautiful place.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Haliburton: I recommend it to members. Information was given to me in my riding which indicated that there are in existence, in the province of Nova Scotia, two freezer-trawler licences held by people in that province.

An hon. Member: Question.

Mr. Haliburton: In view of the well-known attitude of the previous minister of fisheries—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have a question?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): He is just putting it.

Mr. Haliburton: My question to the minister is simply: Is it a fact that there are in existence freezer-trawler licences off the east coast of Canada? If so, how many are there, and when were they issued?

Hon. James A. McGrath (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is quite correct; the only freezer-trawler licences which have been issued were issued by the previous administration.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Oh!

Mr. McGrath: At the present time there are licences in the Atlantic provinces for four freezer-trawlers. The policy of this government on freezer-trawlers will be announced in due course.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL ZONES—REQUEST CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES BE NOT DESIGNATED

Mr. Antonio Yanakis (Berthier-Maskinongé): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

June 30, 1980, is the expiry date of the order relating to special zones which came into effect on July 1, 1977, and which applies to the Montreal area and satellite localities. The minister said in the House recently that the new policy relating to the special zones of Montreal is actually under close consideration in his department and that a new program will soon be announced.

In light of the fact that the program relating to these Montreal special zones has proven to be a near failure since 1977 as far as the establishment of new industries in this area is concerned, will the minister consider making municipalities located within 50 or 100 miles of Montreal independent from this special area, since these towns should never have been considered as satellites of Montreal? I am referring, for instance, to the counties of Berthier and Joliette, whose economies are disturbed because of a bad recommendation by technocrats.

[English]

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the policy with respect to the Montreal special area agreement will be announced shortly. I can understand the hon. member's concern; but going back to what he said in his motion under Standing Order 43, I would remind him that this program was put in by the former administration. It has resulted in a substantial increase in investment. It has resulted in the creation of a substantial number of jobs. We hope to improve on it. I think that the pejorative comments made by the hon. member with respect to the program in his Standing Order 43 are not fully justified.

● (1450)

[Translation]

DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL ZONES

Mr. Antonio Yanakis (Berthier-Maskinongé): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary to the Minister of Supply and Services, the member for Joliette. I notice that since he took over his new office the minister has suddenly become very quiet about the economic development of Quebec. So I would like to ask him if he can assure the House and the voters in the Lanaudière area that he will personally be talking to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion so that the order on special zones which has brought deplorable economic stagnation in certain Quebec ridings, and which is to be reviewed shortly will no longer apply arbitrarily to the area he represents