

• (1450)

When will the Prime Minister recognize that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has failed to protect Canada's fish stocks, intervene and try to negotiate a settlement with the EU?

**Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, many Canadians think the Minister of Fisheries has been the best fighter that we have ever had for the fisheries.

**Some hon. members:** More, more.

**Mr. Chrétien (Saint-Maurice):** I cannot carry on. I do not want to inflate his ego too much.

**Mr. John Cummins (Delta, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, the Europeans have exceeded their quota under NAFO and the minister is fiddling while Rome burns or the dory sinks.

When will the Prime Minister intervene and get some action on this problem?

**Hon. Brian Tobin (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to see that my colleague has taken an interest in the matter, because for the last year we have been working very diligently to put an end to overfishing.

As part of the process of putting an end to overfishing, last year we did not have this bellicose noise. We had the co-operation of the Reform Party and the co-operation of the Bloc Québécois. I recognize that last year was a rare time when the House was unanimous and passed Bill C-29 to take the necessary measures to throw flag of convenience vessels off the nose and tail. They left last May and they have not returned.

The cabinet and the national caucus from sea to sea to sea are united behind the cause of the fishermen of Atlantic Canada. We will be calling upon them for their support again in the days and weeks ahead.

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[Translation]

#### MONTREAL ECONOMY

**Mr. Martin Cauchon (Outremont, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the Montreal area has had more than its share of economic hardship over the past decade. But things have been looking up lately.

Can the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources Development update this House on the economic conditions in Montreal and the regions since the various elements of the human resources development programs have been put in place?

[English]

**Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Human Resources Development, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I publicly thank the member for Outremont for the

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excellent job he did during the parliamentary committee hearings on social security review.

In the Montreal area the economy is making substantial gains. Between January 1994 and January 1995 the number of jobs in Montreal increased by 47,000. The number of unemployed workers decreased by 18,000. The unemployment rate is down by 1.3 per cent.

The red book promises are working very well in Montreal.

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[Translation]

#### COAST GUARD COLLEGE IN SYDNEY

**Mr. Michel Guimond (Beauport—Montmorency—Orléans, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. On October 18, I asked the minister how he could justify spending nearly \$10 million a year to keep the Coast Guard College in Sydney open when the Marine Institute in Rimouski, Quebec, the Pacific Maritime Training Institute in Vancouver and the Marine Institute in Newfoundland, among others, offered the same services. I never heard back from him on that.

How can the minister contemplate, as outlined in the last budget, imposing higher rates on Coast Guard service users, when he does not have the courage to end needless duplication, as in the case of the college in Sydney, which costs the taxpayers \$10 million per year?

**Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, every institution my hon. colleague mentioned makes a significant contribution to the Coast Guard and other services within Transport Canada. We have no intention of changing the status of the Coast Guard College in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

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**Mr. Michel Guimond (Beauport—Montmorency—Orléans, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, why did the minister not take advantage of the budget to announce the closure of the Coast Guard College in Sydney, since provincial educational facilities can provide the same services at a lower cost?

[English]

**Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the coast guard academy at Sydney, Nova Scotia, produces people who are highly skilled and world recognized. We understand the role played by the various provincial institutions referred to by the hon. member.

I would hope the hon. member would understand that the presence of a coast guard academy such as the one at Sydney is absolutely essential to maintain the level and the standards that are well known around the world which have been maintained by the coast guard for a century now in Canada.