

would be introduced on the Island until the results of an experimental increase in Cape Breton were fully known.

Yet the Department of Fisheries and Oceans increased the lobster minimum size prior to making the results of the Cape Breton experiment public.

Once again, this government is not living up to its commitments to the people of Prince Edward Island.

Once again, this government has failed to properly consult the fishermen of my province prior to making a decision that may have a major affect on their livelihood.

• (1410)

When the minister meets with fishermen on December 7 in Prince Edward Island, I strongly encourage him to visit the wharfs and harbours on the Island. I call on him to commit his government to take into account the concerns and views of our Island fishermen. They have been ignored for long enough.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

#### DAIRY INDUSTRY

**Mr. Gaby Larrivée (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, a recent study by the economics and agricultural policy research group at Laval University concluded that Quebec's dairy producers might lose 21 per cent of their incomes as a result of GATT. The study refers to the present situation and does not consider the fact that if the talks fail, yogurt and ice cream would no longer be subject to article XI and that other products might be questioned, if we fail to clarify and reinforce this article.

Furthermore, the study did not allow for the fact that incomes of producers will improve as a result of higher prices on international markets. It also makes the assumption that our exports of dairy products will not increase, which is entirely unlikely. The 5 per cent increased access to U.S. and European markets will open up new markets so that we can expect to see a balanced situation in 10 years. It is mainly for these reasons that Canadian dairy producers have supported the government's position at the GATT talks, which, we hope will be successful.

[English]

S. O. 31

#### TAX AUDITORS

**Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester):** Mr. Speaker, this morning federal government auditors staged a demonstration at the Canadian Tax Foundation Conference in Montreal. These are the people who are responsible for conducting the tax audits of some of the largest corporate institutions in Canada.

The auditors bring in \$2 billion annually in corporate tax, interest and penalties. As professionals they are seldom driven to such visible displays of labour unrest. What they seek is a fair contract with Treasury Board. There is a difference of only 1.5 per cent between what they have requested and what the conciliation board has proposed.

During a similar dispute last year, the government lost \$180 million in revenue from tax audits. We cannot afford a loss of this amount of revenue if strike action is forced upon the government auditors. The government should realize that good economic sense and blind stubbornness do not mix.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

#### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence of a delegation of over 200 people representing the Coalition against Taxes on Books. More than 250,000 Quebecers have signed the coalition's petition against the GST. I may recall that the government of Quebec has decided to exempt books from the GST. Taxing books means imposing ignorance. Instead of trying to scare workers in Baie-Comeau, the Prime Minister should give them a chance to continue their education, but that may be what he fears above all.

\* \* \*

#### REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, as I have said many times before this House, eastern Ontario badly needs economic development. Since September, the following lay-offs have taken place in the town of Hawkesbury, in my riding: Amoco Fabrics, 24; Fib Pak, 22; Fiberworld, 80; Canadian