

that they were part of the provincial policing funds, like all other funds disbursed on account of that contract. In the current year those payments are billed and shared between the federal and provincial governments in the ratio of 56 per cent provincial and 44 per cent federal.

I checked with the province of British Columbia and they confirmed that they did not view this as a federal responsibility, notwithstanding the legal advice of the member opposite, and that they too considered it to be part of the general provincial contract.

As far as payments in the future are concerned, the House will be interested to know that the New Democratic Party critic of the attorney general in the province of British Columbia has approved these payments, and I understand has said that if he were attorney general of the province he would have made the same agreement.

As I indicated recently, the position on agreeing to payments in the future is the same as the position on payments in the past; that is, that it is a matter of administration of justice within the province. I would want to assure that in the future the RCMP would bring such a demand from an accused or other offender to the attention of the attorney general of that province, as they have done in the past, so that that attorney general would have the same authority to deal with it as the attorney general of another province not served by the RCMP.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FISHERIES

ASSISTANCE FOR FISH PLANT IN ST. ANTHONY, NFLD.

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. According to press reports the minister has been involved in an anguished attempt to salvage the Fishery Products Limited plant at St. Anthony. Could the minister tell us how much federal money is available to help, how much the minister thinks it will cost, and how soon will some action be taken?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, if you intend to allow that question I will simply say that I have represented St. Anthony for ten years and I do not intend to stand by and see the people of St. Anthony suffer in any way.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY EAST COAST FISHERIES

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): In view of the fact that the government has now set up Michael Kirby as the minister for fisheries, and that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans himself seems to have absolutely no role to play in the salvaging of the fishing industry on the east coast, and in view of the fact that Mr. Kirby said that our estimate of what it will

cost is all wrong, and in view of the fact that the Minister of National Revenue cannot answer the question, I would like to put the question to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Would the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans tell us how much money is needed, how soon it will be paid, and whether he, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, has any ongoing responsibility whatsoever for the financial difficulties of the east coast fisheries?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, the hon. member's rhetoric should remind the House that he has discovered Newfoundland in the last month.

Mr. Crosbie: When will you start?

Mr. LeBlanc: The first thing the hon. member did when he discovered the Newfoundland situation was to write a letter to me suggesting that we spend \$100 million without any conditions—simply spend it. I believe that some of his colleagues on that side of the House might find that somewhat irresponsible.

The fact is, Madam Speaker, that before Christmas cabinet made a decision to give some assistance to the industry in the form of deficiency payments. That was very gratefully received. I think it was a good formula. Cabinet also made another decision for the purpose of protecting the communities of Gaultois and Grand Bank. The Lake Company should be encouraged to present to us a business plan that would allow us to help them in their recovery. That is already proving to be productive and very useful.

● (1500)

The matter of St. Anthony is more recent. We are looking at this subject, and I might tell the hon. member that he really should go to Newfoundland again. He might learn something else.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 2,728, 2,767, 3,021, 3,056, 3,060, 3,062, 3,148, 3,291, 3,292, 3,325, 3,341, 3,524, 3,561 and 3,567.