

REQUEST THAT AFFIDAVITS BE TABLED

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, just to clear up the situation, would the Minister table in the House all affidavits and papers filed with the Alberta court when the liquidator was appointed?

In view of the fact that the Minister said she was monitoring the bank over the summer to protect the Canadian taxpayer, will she tell us why, on August 29, even as the bank was being wound down, large advertisements appeared in Canada's papers offering a \$50 bonus to new customers who placed minimum term deposits with the bank?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member asked two questions. As far as the affidavits and papers are concerned, I understand those are public documents and they would have been filed with the court.

As to the second part of the Hon. Member's question, the bank was in operation until September 1. Our role was to watch the bank to ensure that as long as it was viable it was functioning and that when it ceased to be viable we appointed a curator.

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FISHERIES

SALE OF CANNED TUNA—REQUEST FOR MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The Minister will know that in an interview today the Prime Minister was asked whether the tuna—the decomposed, unfit-for-human-consumption tuna—which went on the shelves should have been placed on the shelves. The Minister will also know that the Prime Minister said: "Not damned likely," that that stuff should have gone on the shelves. Now that the Minister has lost the confidence of the Prime Minister, should he not do the right thing and resign forthwith?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I explained the context in which that comment—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: Is there something wrong with the Liberals today? I know how depressed they must be and I can understand why. Yesterday's polls were not too good.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: I explained the context in which that statement was made. I also explained the high regard and support I have for the Minister of Fisheries.

Oral Questions

BASIS FOR MINISTER'S RULING

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister will also know that the RPC of New Brunswick, on whose report the Minister says he released that product, today denies that and states that the Minister released the thing without a final report. I have the report in my hand from them dated May 3.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is there a question?

Mr. Skelly: Will the Prime Minister indicate to the House on what basis the Minister of Fisheries released this material? How can the Prime Minister have any confidence in a Minister who would place rotten tuna on the shelves of Canadian supermarkets without having received a final recommendation?

Hon. John A. Fraser (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, the allegation which the Hon. Member makes was made earlier and I invited—

Mr. Skelly: Here is the report dated May 3.

Mr. Fraser:—the Hon. Member to bring me the documents upon which it is based. I have to say that I received a confidential report from the RPC on February 11. I received a further report from the independent committee which I struck as Minister on April 24. It was not until I received both reports and considered them carefully that the stock in question was released. If the Hon. Member has some information I do not have then I would be prepared to discuss the matter with him after Question Period.

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[Translation]

BANKS AND BANKING

POSITION OF GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER ON VIABILITY OF NORTHLAND BANK

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. I should like to get back to the problem raised a moment ago by the Leader of the New Democratic Party concerning the Northland Bank.

During yesterday's press conference Mr. Neapole said, among other things, referring to his bank and the Government's attitude... Here is what he said when accusing the Government:

[English]

"scuppering Northland's fight to survival". He also said: "The will does not seem to be there to restructure or amalgamate."