

Oral Questions

million this year. Both industries are now choking under the federal government's high interest rate policy.

When will the minister impress upon his colleague, the Minister of Finance, that the government's policy is devastating to the forestry industry?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I assume that my hon. friend knows that the tax that is being collected is returned immediately to the province from whence it came. One must assume that that province would return the windfall revenues that accrue back to where it belongs, perhaps in the form of planting trees or other silviculture activities which are urgent and permissible under the agreement.

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TRADE

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.

When the President of the United States was asked by Canada to veto legislation regarding Canadian lobsters, he turned thumbs down to our request.

The decision taken by the free trade panel has once again ruled against Atlantic Canadian lobster fishermen. Decisions of this nature will only serve to enhance regional disparity in this country.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister take members of the House into his confidence and explain what Canada will be proposing during the 90-day negotiation period with our counterparts in the United States? What will the Government of Canada be suggesting to its U.S. counterparts in order for them to change their decision and rule in favour of Atlantic Canadian lobster fishermen?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend knows that this 90-day period is a period for the industry, the unions, and the government to talk about a new configuration.

During this 90-day period I hope that the hon. member will talk with the industry and help the industry. We are going to do that. The panel decision is simply a context for more fruitful discussions during the next 90 days.

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I am appalled. Atlantic Canadian lobster fishermen are appalled at the lack of leadership and concern being exhibited by the Government of Canada with regard to lobster fishermen in this country.

In view of the fact that \$30 million will be drained from the pockets of Atlantic Canadian lobster fishermen, does the minister not think it only fair, equitable and good public policy to put in place forthwith a compensation package as it has done for other sectors of the Canadian economy?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the \$30 million figure is certainly an oversized figure.

The hon. member knows that we have under way a number of promotional opportunities for larger sized lobsters in the United States. That will be a major marketing initiative of the government.

There are also a number of promotions that the industry, together with the government, will be undertaking around the world for lobsters. It will not involve \$30 million. It will be considerably less than that.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It is about the case of Mahmood Hassan Randeree who wants to stay in Canada where his parents and sister are citizens.

I would like to know why the government is so determined to have a South African activist of the African National Council leave this country. Why does the government want him to leave Canada for a country where he will be in danger?

Will the rejection of his refugee claim and the departure notice remain in effect? Or, will the minister consider issuing him a permit on humanitarian grounds?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the decision to give Mr. Randeree a departure notice—not a deportation notice—was made by an