

Oral Questions

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, there has been a net increase in new jobs so far this year in the order of 100,000.

I just refer to a random selection: Bell Northern Research is starting construction of a \$100 million extension to its main research complex this summer in Nepean.

“Quebec’s export sales rise 3.2 per cent, Caccia attributes growth to high-tech companies”.

“GM gives Quebec plant new lease on life”: the new assembly plant for General Motors at Ste. Therese, a billion dollar investment.

A billion dollar investment by Ford in Oakville.

“Thrifty Canadian firms are fighting fit: StatsCan”. It says:

Canadian businesses enter the 1990s saving and investing more than almost any other competitors in the industrialized world, a new report by Statistics Canada says.

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FISHERIES

Mr. Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.

Considering that the long-awaited fisheries aid package does absolutely nothing for the lobster fishermen, could the minister explain what short-term measures he will take to aid the lobster fishermen in Atlantic Canada so they will survive these low prices?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I believe I answered a similar question yesterday on behalf of the minister of fisheries.

There is a greater supply of lobsters than there is demand. That is the problem with the lobster situation in the world today. We are making special efforts to market lobsters in countries that don’t yet appreciate the value, the taste, the texture, and the deliciousness generally of the Canadian north Atlantic lobster.

The government has entered into a \$2.5 million promotion program with two of the far-seeing provinces to help and assist in the marketing of lobster. Those are the steps that have been taken with reference to lobster so far.

The minister of fisheries will continue to watch the situation carefully to see if there is anything that we can

or should do further to help in this situation. It is a market situation and of course all parties in this House, except the NDP, believe in the market.

Mr. Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the minister that we are aware they are delicious, but they are also way too cheap. My supplementary question is for the same minister.

Will the minister announce immediately a price support package for lobster fishermen so that they will be able to cover their cost of production and remain in the lobster industry?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is making a representation. I know that he is concerned about lobster fishermen, just as I am. I represent lobster fishermen as well. I will pass that representation on to the minister of fisheries. I had better not say any more than that, but I will certainly pass it on to the minister of fisheries.

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HEALTH

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark’s Crossing): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of health.

Last week the federal government sent a representative to join the worshippers at the church of privatization in Saskatoon. Among other recommendations at the conference on privatization, we heard about the glories of private health care from American experts. Among the many advantages of the American private system is that 37 million people do not have any health insurance and that it is the most expensive and inefficient health care system in the world.

Will the minister confirm that his government is opposed to privatization of health care and will he end the widespread speculation across the country that this government is committed to return to profit medicine in Canada?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the only people who are spreading that sort of concern is the NDP. I can’t recall anybody on this side making that sort of comment.

I have had the opportunity to read the report in today’s *Regina Leader-Post* about the shenanigans of the provincial NDP at the conference in Saskatoon. Obviously what