

Regional officials of Transport Canada decided to close down the main runways 6 and 24 for four months beginning June 1, 1984. In addition, Transport Canada is closing down the east-west runway. It is runway 24 that the northwest winds favour during the summer months, and that is the peak period for pilot training at Hamilton Civic Airport.

Transport Canada is demanding extra ramp charges and rentals for buildings at the airport, in keeping with the Department's policy when airport development is proceeding. In my view this is highly premature and unfair. Surely Transport Canada should not be trying to kill all flying operations during improvements which benefit the entire Hamilton region. Surely the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro), who is aware of the situation, could consult with his colleague, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy), somewhere along the campaign trail—

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his allotted time has expired.

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● (1115)

### FISHERIES

#### STORAGE OF LOGS IN COWICHAN RIVER ESTUARY—EFFECT ON FISH HABITAT

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, our Party and everyone else concerned about the West Coast fishery have been very skeptical about the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. De Bané) and his policy of trading off fish habitat in one area for so-called enhancement in another. On December 20 the Minister assured the House that there would be a public process whereby all sectors would have the opportunity to put forward their views.

Last week the Department approved one of these trade-offs in the Cowichan area. There was no public process to hear the views of local people or of their elected representatives. They could not even get information about what was happening. Under the agreement, Doman Industries Limited gained the right to store logs on an increased area of the estuary, an action that will adversely affect fish habitat. In exchange it has dedicated 23 acres of farmland for habitat. This will be dyked at public expense, and Doman retains the right to pasture cows in the area.

Trading part of the estuary for a cow pasture cannot be described as no-net loss of fish habitat. It is a sellout of a public resource to private interests. I call on the Minister to reverse this so-called no-net loss policy, and to protect fish habitat so that we will continue to have a fisheries resource on the West Coast.

### Oral Questions

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### THE ECONOMY

#### CONSEQUENCES OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance who brought down a Budget about a month ago in which he said: "My budget today is dedicated to building a strong and growing economy." Since that Budget was brought down, every indicator revealed has shown the exact opposite. Today the inflation rate is up again to a 5.5 per cent increase year-over-year. The underlying trend of the inflation rate is even higher; it is over 7 per cent. As the Minister knows, the dollar has depreciated from over 81 cents and is now struggling to remain above 78 cents. Interest rates are up. The prime rate of the banks is going up to 11.5 per cent. The Bank of Canada rate is up. The unemployment rate has been up two months in a row—11.3 per cent, 1,476,000 people.

I could go on and on, with every indicator, capacity utilization, and so on. All are bad. The Minister brought down his Budget about a month ago. These are the economic facts that have been revealed since. What does he plan to do to arrest this trend? What action does he plan to take to bring Canada back into a recovery? What is he going to do? His Budget has obviously been a complete failure.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to see that the Hon. Member has finally taken time to read the Budget. However, I would like to point something out to him in case he did not read other statistics that came out recently. I remind him that the retail sales for January, the latest figures available, were up significantly. Industrial production is up significantly. We had a record trade surplus in January, higher than in any previous month. In February we created 54,000 new jobs. Employment has been increasing steadily.

The Hon. Member referred to the inflation rate. I forecast in my Budget that in 1984 we would have an inflation rate of around 5 per cent. As the Hon. Member knows, the latest increase is due in great part, according to the Statistics Canada statement, to an increase in food products, resulting in particular from bad weather conditions in the United States. This is affecting the cost of fresh produce. These are the facts. Every indication is to the effect that the Canadian economy will know a strong rate of growth this year, with a reasonable level of inflation.

● (1120)

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister says that 54,000 new jobs were created. The unemployed will say: "Tell it to the marines," and there are 1,476,000 of them. The rate of unemployment has risen.