

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale):** Mr. Speaker, let us look at the record. Since January 1, 1989 Canada has lost 261,000 or 13 per cent of all its manufacturing jobs.

• (1440)

Surely the Prime Minister recalls the report of his own Economic Council of Canada which told him three years ago that if we had an 88 cent dollar we were going to lose thousands of manufacturing jobs.

If the Prime Minister will not listen to Canada's manufacturers or workers, why did he not at least listen to his own experts?

**Hon. Gilles Loiseleur (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I remember just a few months ago we were hearing the same questions from the opposition parties.

They were telling us that the short-term Canadian rates were 565 percentage points above the U.S. They were saying that it was a tragedy, that we should bring the dollar down and that that would solve everything. We have brought the interest rates down and the dollar is going up. How can he explain this contradiction? It is not as simple as he says.

Of course, if you give away your products, people will buy them. You live in a real economy, and you have to be competitive.

The dollar floats because of many reasons we have already expressed today.

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**IMMIGRATION**

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

As the minister knows, the government's own appointee condemned the unconscionable delays in Canada's refugee backlog system by granting refugee status to the Francois family as the sort of thing on which all responsible refugee groups have commented favourably.

Will the minister assure this House that he will not introduce yet further delays by appealing Ms. Lavender's decision?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will give that assurance to the hon. member that a binding decision by an arbitrator, which is not a court of law, will be reviewed by the Federal Court of Appeal.

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, as the minister knows, the United Nations subcommittee on human rights was sympathetic to the Canadian Council of Churches evidence that lengthy delays up to five years are damaging the emotional and mental health of refugees in Canada who have been separated from their families.

Will the minister now speed up the backlog program by increasing the resources available, particularly in Ontario and Quebec, so that the remaining 35,000 cases can be completed before December 1992?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the target date for completion of the hearing of backlog cases will be delayed a bit in the province of Quebec. It will be delayed also in the province of Ontario. In the rest of Canada, the target date will be met.

When he talks about damage, there is also the fabric of this country to protect. We need rules in place which allow us to have a proper system of immigration, and this is exactly what we are attempting to have. The resources required to deal with the backlog are in place. They will be spent to accomplish the objective first set when we introduced the backlog program.

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**FISHERIES**

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Mr. Speaker, last year in Atlantic Canada foreign overfishing accounted for 150,000 tonnes which is almost equal to the total allowable catch for the whole region and represents 3,000 jobs.

This government is allowing foreigners to plunder the very resources upon which the Atlantic region depends. I would like to ask the Prime Minister when he is going to get seized with this problem. When is he going to get serious about protecting our fish for our fishermen?