

penalty of 10 years. I have learned from his wife, Mrs. Leo, that his trial date has not as of yet been set.

I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs first, to increase representations on behalf of Mr. Leo through appropriate channels; second, to ensure that a Canadian representative is present at his trial; and, third, to impress upon the officials of Taiwan that in light of our increase in commercial relations with them we expect at a minimum a respect for the fundamental rights of our citizens.

Finally, all members of our party urge the Secretary of State for External Affairs, if all else fails, to intervene directly with the appropriate authorities and secure the release and safe and speedy return of Mr. Leo to Canada.

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INTEREST RATES

Mr. Lee Richardson (Calgary Southeast): Mr. Speaker, Canadians are encouraged to see Bank of Canada Governor John Crow hinting that he may be easing up on his high interest rate policies. Last week Mr. Crow allowed the bank rate to drop by 29 basis points to 12.14 per cent, hopefully the beginning of a trend.

We all know that Mr. Crow has been keeping interest rates high to fight inflation. We also know that inflation has been dropping steadily since last summer.

Mr. Crow, you have done a good job. Now ease up.

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FISHERIES

Mr. David D. Stupich (Nanaimo—Cowichan): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister was wrong when he said that there is no crisis in Atlantic Canada. There is a crisis caused by mismanagement of the northern cod resource and by government financial hand-outs to corporations which have exhibited absolutely no sense of responsibility to communities, plant workers and fishermen. The question will not be resolved by fiddling with quotas while the cod stocks disappear.

The coal miner's canary is sick in the Atlantic provinces and near death in Newfoundland. We need a Marshall type plan to fill in while the cod stocks rebuild.

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There is municipal infrastructure work that needs doing in every community in Atlantic Canada. Programs announced by the government providing for a year by year decline in cod stocks and the redirection of government spending are not good enough.

Give the fish a chance. Get out of the water. Work on land. We cannot wait for the next election. Act now to fight the crisis.

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NORTHERN TAX GUIDE

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, for the third year in a row, the general tax guide is being mailed to northern residents without the northern tax guide or form. As in past years, taxpayers in the north cannot do tax planning as they are kept in the dark about when they can expect to receive the guide and claim their tax benefits.

For trappers who work in the bush and other workers in the bush who only come into town every two months, this is an extra trip. Individuals who want to file their returns early in order to get back the money the government owes them have to wait until next year until Revenue Canada gets around to them.

The minister promised a simplified tax system. Is this the simplified system we can expect, a system that costs twice as much, takes twice as long and is double the trouble?

I call on the minister to ensure that the northern benefit tax guide and forms are sent immediately to eligible residents and to ensure that next year they are included in the general tax guide.

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TOBACCO SMOKING

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, on this designated Weedless Wednesday it seems appropriate to review some of the statistics relating to tobacco smoking.

As an incentive to encourage ourselves, our friends and our loved ones to avoid the smoking habit like the plague, we note that fully one-quarter of all adult deaths occur as a result of smoking. Some 35,000 deaths annually are attributed to tobacco. Of 100,000 15 year