

years, we are satisfied with that. Also, as the hon. member said in quoting from the document, the provinces are satisfied as well. Only the hon. member, perhaps, would want to expropriate and make it Canadian overnight, but that is not the policy of this government.

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[Translation]

URBAN AFFAIRS

ALLEGED SHORTAGE OF FUNDS FOR RRAP—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Urban Affairs and concerns the RRAP projects. Is it true that funds earmarked for his department for RRAP projects are barely enough to finance one project per municipality, to a maximum of \$6,000 yet?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, since we have made all small rural communities in Quebec eligible for the RRAP program, there has been a race for available funds. We will certainly not be able to grant all requests this year. But we are trying as much as possible to plan expenditures so as to help first of all the low income residents of the oldest houses. As for distribution of funds among municipalities, no final decision has been made. Everything will depend on the requests from the different municipalities. First we will grant requests from those municipalities which are best equipped to benefit from the RRAP program.

Mr. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary. Assuming that those basic proposals are applied, does that mean that in the large municipalities in need of a RRAP, there might be one or two projects, depending on the population?

Mr. Ouellet: The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker.

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● (1432)

[English]

FISHERIES

STATUS QUO OF 1978 INTERIM RECIPROCAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. In view of the need to secure a satisfactory framework for the future, long-term development of the fisheries resources presently shared by Canada and the United States, I should like to ask the minister if it is the intention of the government to continue the suspension of the 1978 Interim Reciprocal Fisheries Agreement as implemented on June 2 until the boundary problems are resolved on a permanent basis.

Oral Questions

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the discussions which took place on Monday and Tuesday continued late last night, and this morning, at a more junior level than the special negotiators. Considerable progress has been made on problems affecting the west coast. We did not feel that progress was adequate on the east coast discussions: these will be continuing, but I am expecting a fuller report from the special negotiators. For the moment, the agreement remains suspended.

Mr. Crouse: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the government obtained United States guarantees of a permanent stay of countervailing duties on fish? In order to get these guarantees, has the government been required to agree to give up any other assistance to the fishing industry besides the subsidy of two cents per pound on groundfish, by October 1, such as management and control over Swiftsure bank on the west coast?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, there is no link between the two problems. The countervailing action which was in response to a complaint by United States fishing interests is many months old, before the suspension of the agreement. It was acted upon as a separate issue and is certainly not linked to present difficulties.

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ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD

REPORTED DEFICIENCY IN SAFETY FEATURES OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has notice of our concern about certain emergency safety design systems and also requirements regarding safety of the public as a result of certain reports leaked to us and others from the agencies under his control in the atomic energy field.

I ask the minister why he has permitted public statements to be made by these agencies under his control that all is well with regard to emergency safety designs, when their own reports and, I suspect, reports which have reached the minister indicate that the agencies are very seriously questioning the design and efficiency of these emergency safety systems.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the reports the hon. member mentioned are, I presume, those which appeared in the press yesterday and the day before, some of them in the *Globe and Mail*. Information I have received indicates that these reports are based either on misinformation or misinterpretation of data and that, in fact, much of the concern reflected in them was dealt with in considerable detail in answer to written questions of the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands and the hon. member for St. John's East.

At that time a considerable amount of information was made public about these particular concerns. There were further discussions before the Porter commission, and cross-