

should not be allowed into the river systems and lakes of this country by the pulp industry? Just once, stand up.

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, the pulp and paper industry has, over the last five years, invested \$1 billion a year in making improvements to their plants.

Under the new regulations the industry will be required over the next three years to invest another \$5 billion to \$7 billion, the result of which will be a complete elimination of the emission of dioxins into the river systems.

My hon. friend should read the regulations that have been published and consult with people other than those whom he calls friends who give him a single vision of the reality of the situation.

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, in his April 24 paper, Mr. Schindler writes:

In brief, hundreds of thousands of people in northern Canada could be exposed to high levels of dioxins, furans and other toxic chlorinated organic compounds in Canada—

There are currently no regulations governing dioxin emissions from pulp and paper mills. Lack of effective government action is almost guaranteeing tragedy.

My question to the Prime Minister, to the Minister of Forestry, to any minister is, when will the government implement dioxin emission standards for pulp mills to eliminate this widespread public health threat?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, my answer to this hon. member is the same as to his predecessor. To shout louder and to repeat untruths does not make a truth.

The fact is that action has been taken and the results will be evident. If the hon. member bothers to see what has happened and what will happen as a result of the new regulation, he will perhaps refrain from causing unjustified fear and perhaps destroying an industry that is the mainstay of the Canadian economy.

Oral Questions

• (1430)

FISHERIES

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and, in his absence, to the Acting Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

The fishermen's proposals for groundfish allocations in 4X and 5 have been before the minister's department since last February. Last week the fishermen invited local politicians and officials from the minister's department to meet in Meteghan yesterday. There were over 500 concerned fishermen and plant workers and not one Department of Fisheries official.

Could the Acting Minister tell us why that insult was given to the people who have not fished in the last few months and who are looking for some type of proposal? Why was there not one department official? Surely, the government spends enough money on those people that one of them could have been there.

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, if I might be permitted to answer this question on behalf of my colleague.

I understand there has been extensive dialogue between the department and the fishermen who are understandably concerned about the situation in South West Nova. I can also tell my colleague that arrangements are being made that will result in a meeting next week between the minister and appropriate officials so that these matters can be fully discussed and the fishermen's demands and aspirations can be heard and dealt with.

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Prime Minister. There exists today a very dangerous situation in the southern end of Nova Scotia. Yesterday, provincial ministers and I, and others, met with the fishermen. There were no officials there. The fishermen would like to meet with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The present minister of fisheries is attending a Seafood 2000 dinner tonight. I can assure you there will not be a fisherman from that end of the province invited to the dinner. I know the government is paying for some of it.