

Oral Questions

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we are not. It is as simple as that. We have said that no changes will be considered for the Auto Pact which will undermine the capability and the effectiveness of the auto industry to create jobs, jobs that the Member knows full well are very important to his part of the country. It is one of the reasons that the unemployment rate is as low as it is in Windsor. It is one of the reasons that it is as low as it is in Oshawa. He understands and we understand fully the importance of the Auto Pact, and there is no consideration whatever to undermine that importance.

Mr. Langdon: Once again the Minister is out of touch with the facts, Mr. Speaker. In fact the unemployment rate doubled in Windsor last month.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Will the Minister of Finance give a clear answer and state, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs himself stated to the House, that:

—the Auto Pact serves Canada's interests well, and we do not see any purpose in changing a system that works.

Or are you, in fact, turning that question—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member does know that it is improper to address a Minister or another Member with the word "you". I would ask the Member to rephrase the last part of his question.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister simply attest to this House that the statements made on occasion after occasion by the Secretary of State for External Affairs that the Auto Pact would not be touched because it serves our interests well will, in fact, be respected?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have said nothing that in any way is contrary to what the Secretary of State for External Affairs has said. What I do want to point out is what Mr. Murphy, the chief negotiator for the United States, has said in the course of these negotiations, that if he could have more Ed Broadbents on his side in Washington helping the side of the Americans in these negotiations, they would be a lot better off.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FISHERIES

GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE—CANADA-FRANCE NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. In view of the fact that talks have broken down between Canadian

negotiators and French negotiators over the boundary dispute and the fisheries management dispute with France in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, could the Minister tell us what he is now doing to make sure that the interests of Canadian fishermen will be protected? Will the Minister assure the House, as reported in *The Globe and Mail* by a fishermen's union representative, that we are not going to barter cod for cultural agreements?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I can definitely assure the Hon. Member that the interests of Atlantic fishermen, particularly those on the south shore of Newfoundland that might be seen as negatively impacted by the present practice of over-fishing by the French national fleet in the waters around St. Pierre and Miquelon, will be respected and protected by initiatives at the highest diplomatic level.

CATCH TAKEN BY FRENCH FISHING FLEET

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain to the House how it is possible, out of a quota of some 6,000 metric tonnes allotted to France in Zone 3PS, that France could take 26,000 metric tonnes in that zone and why no one in Canada knew until reading about it in a newspaper published in France?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the Hon. Member does his reading but we have known since 1983 of extensive French over-fishing in the disputed zone which has not been properly delineated because of a claim by France to a 200-mile territorial sea south of the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. It looks as though ultimately that boundary matter will have to be resolved by international arbitration.

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[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS—PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS
AGAINST PRICE INCREASES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and concerns pharmaceutical products.

Four million Canadians on low incomes are being penalized by this legislation. They don't get welfare benefits, they have no private insurance and no protection against the rising cost of drugs. What is the Minister going to do to help them?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, what can be done is to have Hon. Members read the legislation and realize that they are misinforming the public in claiming that there will be an increase in the price of drugs. What there will be an increase