

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I recognize that the tables in the report are not recommendations as to salaries but recommendations as to ranges. But in view of the fact that two new ranges are being proposed, one for last year and one for this coming year, will the Prime Minister seriously consider the suggestion from this side of the House that increases actually granted within those ranges should be held down? I ask this in view of the concern of the Prime Minister that Canadians not live beyond their means and that something be done to prevent our people from getting expectations that are too high?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I told the Leader of the Opposition earlier that the report was just tabled yesterday and that it had not been considered by Cabinet. Cabinet will consider the report. I will look at the suggestion of the hon. member. I will not espouse his prejudices that we should show our courage by penalizing one particular group when the whole country would be permitted to go on without restraint.

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#### REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

##### PARTICIPATION BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN COST OF MODERNIZING SYDNEY STEEL PLANT

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Since the management of the Sydney Steel Corporation is considering several options with reference to modernization of the present steel plant at Sydney, can the minister advise what part officials from his department are playing in these considerations?

**Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, there has been some consultation between Sysco and my department. However, I am not in a position at the moment to inform the hon. member as to the details of those consultations. We will undoubtedly have to wait a few more weeks before we can really address ourselves to what plan or strategy would be the best for Sysco and the department.

**Mr. Muir:** I thank the minister for his reply. In view of the fact that one of the options being considered is that, with an investment of \$200 million to \$250 million in the present plant, it could be modernized, diversification of products could take place and employment provided for over 3,000 workers, can the minister advise or give some encouragement as to whether his department or the government will assist the province of Nova Scotia in funding such a project?

**Mr. Lessard:** Mr. Speaker, if the project is as described by the hon. member, we will certainly look into it and evaluate the whole proposal. If in our view it is a good project, we will give sympathetic consideration to it.

#### Oral Questions

##### FISHERIES

##### PLANS FOR REPLACEMENT OF ICNAF—REQUEST FOR REPORT

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment and at the same time welcome him back from his discussions with Brigitte Bardot.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McGrath:** Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?

**Mr. Crouse:** Discussions are being held in Ottawa until March 25 to consider the development of a framework for future multilateral co-operation which will replace ICNAF. Up to the present, ICNAF set the quotas inside and outside the 200-mile limit. What steps does the minister plan to take in 1978 and beyond for the international management of our fisheries, both within the 200-mile limit and the fisheries area immediately adjacent to it, and what steps will be taken to undertake scientific co-operation in the area as a whole?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to the first part of the hon. member's question, Madame Bardot did not come to Ottawa to get the full information which could have been made available to her if she had wanted to have that information.

● (1500)

On the other point the hon. member mentioned, the meetings on the future of ICNAF are going on at this time and I think it would be premature for me to offer the type of long-term answer that the member is requesting. When the meeting is over, I will make a point of briefing him either through the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry or in the House.

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[Translation]

##### INCOME TAX

##### REQUEST FOR EQUAL TREATMENT OF DEDUCTIONS ALLOWED TRUCK DRIVERS

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of National Revenue.

The minister certainly knows that truck drivers working for companies whose main activity is transportation can deduct for tax purposes a certain amount for meals and accommodation and that all other truck drivers working for companies whose main activity is not transportation do not enjoy the same privilege. In view of this flagrant injustice, does the minister intend to review her department's policy, thus allowing all truck drivers working more than 10 hours a day and driving more than 200 miles a day to benefit from this tax relief?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I regret but this question has already been put earlier today.