

● (2205)

And a province with less revenue perhaps, and smaller in size such as Prince Edward Island, for instance, taxes its citizens as Canadians at a rate of 32.03 per cent. Mr. Speaker, in discussing that situation, I could go on describing this hoax about fiscal transfers. He even killed a program called OSE. Of course, many people will say he did not lose much, because the cut was on advertising. This hoax, Mr. Speaker, consists in consistently trying to delude Quebecers into believing they still are a good government. They boast about being a good government. They want to be, so they say, a government that will improve things by boycotting federal-provincial conferences. Mr. Speaker, we know about the Quebec government boycotts. We have seen, for instance, officials from the department of agriculture refusing to attend a symposium organized with the provinces here in Ottawa. They say they are a good government that will bring money to the province of Quebec for the benefit of Quebecers. But when the time comes to discuss such issues, they fail to attend.

We have seen a Quebec government boycott at the Vancouver conference on the Status of Women. Again we have seen how the province of Quebec boycotted the federal-provincial conference of the ministers of justice. They also boycotted the federal-provincial conference on tourism, again saying they were a good government, and wanted to represent Quebecers. They are told that there might be big money to be had in Ottawa, because someone says: "Bring them in." However, when the time comes to defend the rights of Quebecers they definitely refuse to come. They do not want to promote the rights of Quebecers. This is why I asked a question concerning that masquerade of erroneous data, the presentation of a five-year plan schedule of fiscal transfers which contained data for the year 1982-83 alone. But even for Mr. Lévesque and his associates, a five-year plan remains a five-year plan. Yet, they would like us to believe that this is only a one-year plan. Under these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I had to speak up and ask the minister what was really the situation, as far as Quebec and the new fiscal transfers are concerned.

Mr. Pierre Deniger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, I should like first of all to thank the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Dubois) for the sincere interest he is demonstrating in the wellbeing of all Quebecers by raising this issue which is so germane to the Canadian political reality of today. As all other hon. members of the House, I was quite surprised when I heard separatist Premier René Lévesque state during last week's first ministers' conference that Quebec stood to lose in the fiscal year 1982-83 under the new fiscal arrangements.

This is unbelievable, Mr. Speaker, when it is a well-known fact that Quebec will receive \$5,326 million in 1982-83 under the new arrangements proposed by the Federal Government, while it only received \$4,987 million in 1981-82. According to my computation, Quebec will clearly be getting \$339 million

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more in 1982-83 than in 1981-82. As a matter of fact, the transfers from the federal treasury to the Quebec government under the new fiscal arrangements will increase by nearly 7 per cent in 1982-83. Over the next five years, that is 1982-83 to 1986-87, the transfers to Quebec will go up by an average of 12.2 per cent annually and reach \$8.4 billion in 1986-87. Some \$8.4 billion in 1986-87, Mr. Speaker, that is an awful lot of money which the Government of Canada will give to Quebecers directly from taxes paid by all Canadian taxpayers. To understand the figures quoted by Premier Lévesque we would have to know what was the basis for his computation to arrive at the conclusion that Quebec was a loser when in fact the figures prove the contrary. First, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lévesque starts off by assuming that the equalization system scheduled to end on March 31, 1982, will continue beyond that date. It so happens that his own finance minister, Mr. Parizeau, had discarded that possibility. Here is a statement made by Mr. Parizeau at Laval University on September 17, 1981, and I quote:

In fact, the rapidly increasing wealth of Alberta has been a factor in raising the national average, so much so that Ontario has fallen below that level and should therefore be considered as a poor province. According to the federal government this is a ridiculous situation and the formula has to be reviewed. We agree.

Mr. Parizeau agrees that the formula must be reviewed so that all Canadians will be treated more equitably. In addition, and this is very significant, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lévesque and Mr. Parizeau fail to take into consideration the value of the tax points transferred to Quebec, whereas indeed a major portion of those federal transfers to the provinces are made that way. As the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said at the closing session of the conference, those fiscal transfers must be taken into consideration. I quote:

The data used by Mr. Lévesque simply do not take into account the tax points which are transferred.

If I may, Mr. Speaker—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser).

● (2210)

[English]

FISHERIES—(A) TASK FORCE DECISION NOT TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS
(B) FISHERMEN'S REPRESENTATION

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I had the opportunity to ask the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. LeBlanc) questions about the task force appointed to investigate the situation on the Atlantic coast with respect to the dire straits within which present circumstances have placed the fishing industry. As everyone knows, the government and the minister are absolutely lacking any kind of answers, having ignored the evidence which has been available for many months. They have also gone through the motions of indicating that there would be a cabinet document in January which would address the problems of the east