

Oral Questions

vital resource to be decimated. This is not the time for finger pointing. It is the time for purposeful, decisive action.

This government must act immediately in concert with provincial governments and the industry to relieve the pressure on the northern cod. It must move, finally, to control the seal population and it must get tough with those countries, principally Spain and Portugal, that are blatantly overfishing these stocks. If they will not listen to reason, maybe it is time for stronger measures.

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[Translation]

OLYMPIC GAMES

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec—Est): Mr. Speaker, I am proud to address the House again today in praise of all the Canadian athletes at the Albertville Olympic Games.

First off, I would like to mention the performance of Miss Kerrin Lee-Gartner from Calgary, Alberta, who won the first Olympic Gold Medal for Canada in the women's downhill.

I am particularly proud of our athletes' showing in acrobatic skiing and I would like to personally congratulate someone from my region, Mr. Philippe LaRoche, from Lac Beauport Quebec, who won first place in the jumps, as well as his teammate, Nicholas Fontaine, from Magog, Quebec, who came in second.

Even though acrobatic skiing is only a demonstration sport and their medals are not taken into account in the final classification, these two athletes gave an outstanding performance.

Let me also underline our best olympic performance in the men's biathlon 4 X 7.5-km race, where Steven Cyr, from Val-Cartier, Quebec came in tenth.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that you will join me in congratulating those athletes and in celebrating Team Canada's first victory over Germany just a few minutes ago, in overtime.

[English]

GUYANA

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville): Mr. Speaker, some time this year Guyana will hold a general election. Guyana has a history of flawed elections. While some changes have been made under President Desmond Hoyte to reform the political system, the Guyanese government still has a long way to go.

Canada and other countries have to urge the Guyanese government to implement strict election reforms. Free and fair elections in Guyana must become a reality.

I want to be sure that Canada takes measures to ensure that the election will run smoothly and democratically. Canadian observers must be on hand to guarantee the Guyanese people a free and fair election.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the acting Prime Minister.

For two years now, the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister have been telling Canadians that things are getting better. The Canadian people would like to believe them, but they keep hearing about new plant closures and lay offs every day on the news.

Just yesterday, Hyundai announced a three-day reduced work week for its plant in Bromont, Quebec. And today, Dominion Textiles announced it was closing its plants in Saint-Thimothée, Quebec, and Long Sault, in Ontario, with a total of 624 workers being laid off.

In his forthcoming budget, will the Minister of Finance forget about wrestling inflation and make sure that Canadians regain their dignity by getting back to work in well-paid jobs?