

REQUEST THAT TECHNICIANS BE WITHDRAWN

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, the minister is aware that a senior official to the Argentinian president, Dr. Ussher, admitted to the American writer, Amory Lovins, that the Candu reactor was chosen for "military and strategic reasons." Not only that, but Dr. Ussher said that Argentina has two plutonium separation facilities—and not one as we were led to believe—meaning that Argentina will soon have weapons-grade plutonium enabling it to produce its own nuclear weapons. In other words, we will have another big bang from Argentina like the one we got from India. Will the government stop being hypocritical, offering peacekeeping on the one hand, and supplying material for nuclear weapons on the other hand? Will he now order the withdrawal of the 71 technicians from Argentina?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, if the quote from this particular Argentinian is correct, I would advise my hon. friend that Argentina has certainly made the most stupid decision ever made—if they bought a Candu thinking that would help them for military purposes, because it is the most expensive and circuitous way of achieving military purposes. As far as the other point raised by the hon. member is concerned, he is very much in the same category as the Argentinian commentator to whom he has referred.

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FISHERIES

WEST COAST SALMON FISHING REGULATIONS

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. As the minister will remember, last week I was able to send to him letters on two matters in British Columbia. The first was the recommendation for a net-buy back provision and compensation for Fraser River fishermen, in view of the fact that they will not be able to fish. I would like the minister to respond on whether that will be accepted by the department.

The second point concerns salmon licence regulations which were passed last year and only referred to last year and do not refer to this year. Yet the department has notified fishermen that if they do not have a licence—which they cannot legally apply for—they will be prosecuted and their equipment seized. Would the minister straighten up these difficulties?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I have received the hon. member's note and I have asked that information be assembled for an answer. On the second point, I am told that there was an error in the draft regulation but that it is being corrected now, if that has not been done already. I know that I have signed the order.

QUERY RESPECTING FUEL SUBSIDIZATION FOR TUNA FISHERMEN

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Madam Speaker, I wonder if the minister could tell us whether as a result of the

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discussions which were held earlier between the minister's officials and fishermen on the west coast interested in getting into tuna fishing and who have requested that the government consider oil subsidization, fuel subsidization, in order to take these very efficient boats from the badly depleted salmon stocks over to the tuna, any decision has been made by the government with respect to that? That decision, of course, would be primarily a conservation decision and probably would be supported by most Canadians.

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, the reaction to the suggestion of fishing for tuna was very positive. We have had discussions with the fishermen's group and we are trying to come up with a solution. If we can move that way, it will be a good conservation measure for the Chinook salmon, which are in rather difficult shape.

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NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

ALBERTA ROYALTY REDUCTIONS

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The fact that the National Energy Program is more than a disaster is recognized by almost everyone in Canada, with the possible exception of the minister and some of his officials, and apparently the Minister of Finance. In an attempt to mitigate some of the disastrous results, last Tuesday the province of Alberta announced some very important royalty reductions. While most observers feel that the Alberta changes are important and useful, they also feel that it will be necessary for the federal government to match this reduction in royalties by reducing the PGRT and NGGLT in order to enable this industry to get back on its feet. Will the minister act as responsibly as the government of Alberta and make similar arrangements on behalf of the federal government?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I would like to remind my hon. friend that under the National Energy Program we have achieved a rate of conservation of energy and a rate of substitution in favour of natural gas and electricity and other forms of energy, which is as high as had been forecast and we have met with great success. In the area of Canadianization under the National Energy Program we have succeeded in reducing foreign ownership by as much as 6.5 per cent in a space of a year, and in the area of pricing we have achieved an agreement with the government of Alberta which will mean cheaper prices to the consumer than would have been the case under the Conservative government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!