

and thank the Hon. Member for Roberval (Mr. Bouchard) and Minister of State (Transport), who was instrumental in re-opening the St-Raymond paper plant in Desbiens.

Mr. Speaker, since last Sunday, Desbiens has been in a state of euphoria now there is hope once again for all those people who were laid off for 42 months. The day after the election the four Members from the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area made the Desbiens dossier one of their regional priorities. Desbiens became a symbol for the region, and following the regional economic summit, we agreed to do everything in our power to help the people of Desbiens regain their dignity as workers.

Thanks to the work done by our Minister of State (Transport), our Government will be providing more than \$4 million, in addition to a substantial tax credit, to help the plant get started again this summer. Quebec and the company that owns the plant are also doing their share.

Mr. Speaker, once again I want to say that our colleague deserves to be congratulated for successfully managing this very difficult dossier, unusually so within the present context, with the result that the people of Desbiens in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area can start to live again.

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[English]

BROADCASTING

COMPOSITION OF POLICY TASK FORCE

Mr. Jim Edwards (Edmonton South): Mr. Speaker, a week ago the Minister of Communications announced the appointment of a seven-person task force to review the Canadian broadcasting system, the first such review in 17 years. In line with this Government's commitment to appoint people of merit to key policy positions, all but one of the appointments are non-partisan or contra-partisan.

Next Tuesday the Caplan-Sauvageau task force will begin its work. By early 1986 it is to make recommendations to the Minister on the following points: appropriate public policy objectives, cultural and economic, of our unique mixed system into the 21st century; the role and mandate of the three components of our system, national-public, private, and provincial; most significantly, the demands and desires of the public, taking into account the diversity of our no longer solitary linguistic, regional and ethnic communities; the role of such policy instruments as regulation and the public purse; and the unshackling of the system to see what it can do culturally and economically.

The array of talent comprising this task force will assure that it takes its task seriously. It is hoped that, in the absence of any task force member representing the millions of small-town and rural Canadians, the seven distinguished appointees will pay special heed to the needs and wishes of our heartland.

Oral Questions

• (1415)

FISHERIES

SITUATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TROLLERS

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, at this moment a fishery protest is taking place in the Gulf of Georgia by a group of British Columbia trollers. As a result of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans' (Mr. Fraser) failure to develop a West Coast fishing plan, the Minister and his Department have deprived these trollers of an opportunity to earn a living in the 1985 fishing season. In addition, by failing to declare an early opening date, the Minister will likely prevent many of these trollers from qualifying for UIC this fall.

Instead of making himself available to consult with established user groups, as well as failing to make himself available to answer questions in this House and monitor the activities of his Department, the Minister has decided to spend extensive periods of time in the U.S. and Europe. This particular Minister made personal election promises that he would not only consult with fishermen but that he would be readily available when problems arise. The reality is that this Minister is generally unavailable, and in the last several months has rarely been in Canada.

Members of this Party request that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) ask the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to return to Canada and fulfil his responsibilities, or resign.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GREEN PAPER ON FOREIGN POLICY

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Government is on lock-out or strike, because I wanted to ask a question of the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but I will ask it of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr. Crosbie: Look behind you.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, yesterday Canadians were presented with the Dick and Jane primer on external affairs. It is a kind of sad day when Canadians are presented with a bland document like that, and this is really not acceptable. It was supposed to be a document opening the door to serious participation by the public, but it is in fact the opening of the door to ridicule. We see great statements like "we and the United States are neighbours"; or "Africa is a vast and diverse continent."

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): How about that.