

● (1420)

During the budget I made certain projections as to the rate of growth of the economy in 1981 based upon the National Energy Program. I have no reason to alter that projection with regard to rates of growth in the economy for 1981.

QUERY RESPECTING PLANS TO ASSIST MANUFACTURING SECTOR

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In the January 15, 1981, *Commons Debates*, page 6221, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is quoted as saying "the Toronto *Star* has not been able to find a single spokesman for any company in Ontario that says it has lost any jobs". So much for the reliability of both the *Star* and the minister, since the statement of six industrial associations said in part that the energy policy as it stands is damaging not just the oil industry, but the manufacturing industry as well. Can the minister indicate whether he has any plans prepared to mitigate the damage to the already hurting manufacturing sector?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, we are building on the very important and positive National Energy Program to strengthen our manufacturing base. Elements of this are found in the oil and gas legislation to enable the development of Canadian jobs and Canadian suppliers, in carrying out major energy projects on the Canada lands. I hope my hon. friends will recognize the importance of this and give it their active support.

Mr. McDermid: Madam Speaker, the minister is supposed to represent his client group, not fight them. He is not prepared to acknowledge what is acknowledged by all the trade associations representing the manufacturing sector and, hopefully, they have a voice in the minister. Is he at least monitoring the situation, or does he intend to let them flounder until they need a Chrysler or Massey bailout?

Mr. Gray: Madam Speaker, we are following the situation very closely. My purpose, and I hope it is that of all members of this House, is not only to speak for individual groups but to work and speak for all Canadians. This is the way we are approaching it, and I think the hon. member should do so as well.

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FISHERIES

CHINOOK SALMON FISHING RESTRICTIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Yesterday in Vancouver announcements were made severely limiting the fishing of chinook salmon in British Columbia, resulting from many years of federal government mismanagement of that

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stock, particularly on the Fraser River. Many of these restrictions are putting an unnecessarily hard financial burden on the gill-net fleet, including the closure of the upper Fraser River to gill-netters and restricting combination vessels in their decision as to whether to gill-net inside or outside. Is there any agreement with the United States to have them restrict their chinook and sockeye fishery at Point Roberts so that gill-net fishermen on the Fraser River may share in some of their own salmon going back to their spawning grounds rather than their being given to the American fishermen?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, the last part of the hon. member's question is interesting. I hope he will support the position of this government if and when a treaty is finally negotiated, because one of our aims in the new treaty affecting the Fraser River will be to return the management of that river system to the Canadian authorities. As for the means of conservation which we announced, we have tried to take a balanced view. We have restricted the gillnetters. In fact we said to those who would be very heavily restricted that we are looking at other opportunities that could be afforded to them. We have also restricted the sports fishermen and I have had a number of telegrams of protest on that score. I think they all recognize that the Fraser system chinooks must be given a chance to spawn, and it is to this effect that we have taken these measures.

● (1425)

Mr. Miller: I assure the minister this party will indeed support a fair fisheries treaty between the U.S. and Canada on the west coast, but we do not consider a fair treaty as being an imbalance of 5.8 million sockeye as is the present situation on the west coast.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: That is not a proposal either.

Mr. Miller: In the recommendations from the Department of Fisheries there is very seldom any mention of a specific portion of the fleet in British Columbia which has grown from 370 vessels in 1969 to over 600 now. What proposals does the minister's department plan to restrict the kill of juvenile chinook as a result of the very efficient seine fleet? That is one of the major causes of chinook reduction in British Columbia. Over hundreds of thousands of juvenile chinook salmon are killed each year by the seine fleet and there is nothing in the press release yesterday which specifically indicates the problem will be looked into and adjusted accordingly.

Mr. LeBlanc: Madam Speaker, that is an ongoing problem with which all representatives of the industry agree, and it is being addressed. In this case we were looking at the Fraser River chinook salmon and conservation measures and the seine fleet was not an overriding concern. It has had limitations in other fisheries in other areas.

Mr. Miller: Madam Speaker, the minister will recognize that we have advocated some regulations on the sports fishing