

Oral Questions

to branch plants in both? Does she approve of that double standard?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I and the Government approve of the process of consultation on a national issue which affects all Canadians.

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AGRICULTURE**ASSISTANCE TO GRAIN PRODUCERS**

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge—Foothills): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State (Finance) and is with respect to the Government decision to assist Canadian farmers financially in order partially to—and I think we should note “partially”—offset EEC and U.S. export subsidies. What effect will this assistance have on the existing fiscal framework?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to reiterate what the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for the Wheat Board have said. The Government has reallocated priorities before for drought assistance and livestock assistance and it is doing it again for this particular problem. It will be a reallocation within the given fiscal framework.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER OF TRANSPORT**

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, with reference to Atlantic Canada the Speech from the Throne said “regional disparity is completely unacceptable”. Yet the Minister of Transport said as recently as today on the radio in Newfoundland, reiterating his statement of a month ago, that Atlantic Canadians should not always compare themselves with the rest of Canada but should compare themselves with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Order! The Hon. Member will put his question.

Mr. Baker: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Does he think that Atlantic Canadians are going to believe that the Government is concerned about regional disparity when the Minister of Transport is asking Atlantic Canadians to think about Bangladesh and compare themselves with Sri Lanka?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I received an important communication in regard to the question raised by my hon. friend. I received a telex which says: “You are to be commended for an approach which

reflects our experience that the regional development efforts of Governments succeed to the extent they build upon the entrepreneurial insights and energies of the private sector in its relationship to the resource base”, signed the Hon. Joseph Ghiz, Premier of Prince Edward Island.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I will get to the supplementary question. The Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion says there is no new money for regional development. My supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. What is the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency going to do, a loaves and fishes act?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, Premier Ghiz points out the following: “Your commitment to an Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency in the Speech from the Throne based on maximum participation of other Governments and organizations in the area holds promise for the people of our region”. That is what it plans to do, Mr. Speaker. It is an instrument designed to meet the needs of the regions in intimate consultation with the Premier of Prince Edward Island and other Atlantic Premiers, based on the notion that the people in those regions can best design programs to help create employment for themselves. The federal Government is a partner in the economic development of Atlantic Canada. I think that meets with the approval of everyone, including my hon. friend.

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● (1450)

PORNOGRAPHY**REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION**

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. People in this country are concerned about the rise of child abuse and violent pornography. As well, people want to see other hard core pornography controlled. Will he assure the House that we will soon see legislation covering all aspects of pornography and child abuse?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question by the Hon. Member for Niagara Falls who has had a very leading role in terms of pursuing this area of concern which I believe is shared by all Members of the House. The Speech from the Throne underlined the priority which these initiatives take in the view of the Government. I propose to come forward with legislation at an early date. I know it will have the support of all Members of the House because we want to deal with these important areas of concern to all Canadians.