

*Oral Questions**[English]*

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, not at all. I am really surprised that the hon. gentleman, coming from the Province of Quebec, would have condemnatory words to say about a Minister who, for the first time in 16 years, signed a \$1 billion ERDA agreement with his own province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

POSSIBLE RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF REGIONAL
INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

I would like to remind the Deputy Prime Minister that two Quebecers did have had the courage of their convictions: Mr. Masse and Mrs. Blais-Grenier had the courage to resign and to leave their jobs.

Is the Deputy Prime Minister prepared to ask the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion to resign his portfolio, since the attitude of the Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister reflects on the reputation of all Members of this House?

[English]

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the hon. gentleman would accuse the former Minister of State of resigning by reason of some impropriety, because that is simply not the truth. In respect of the Minister of Communications, the facts are of record. He acted quite properly, and he is back with us, I am sure much to the pleasure of the hon. gentleman.

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FISHERIES

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I would like to switch for a moment to some other fishy business. My question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. As she knows, major trade unions representing fishermen and shore workers on both the East and West Coasts are here in the Gallery today for the first time in history—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: My mother-in-law is here too, but I wouldn't want to say it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member knows full well that any reference to the presence of anyone in the Gallery is out of order. The Hon. Member for Saskatoon East.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will come back in a minute to the Hon. Member for Skeena.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I will.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is a difficult enough day without all the noise. I will come back to the Hon. Member, but he knows that that reference was improper. The Hon. Member for Saskatoon East.

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TRADE

NEGOTIATIONS WITH OECD COUNTRIES ON AGRICULTURAL
ISSUE

Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. In the past few days we saw the Prime Minister focus a great deal of international attention on the plight of western Canadian farmers in light of increasing and harmful American and European farm subsidies. When is the OECD expected to commence its study on the international agricultural issue, and what other measures will be taken by the Minister's officials with OECD countries to resolve the issue?

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I advise the Hon. Member that work has already been started by the OECD. A report will be prepared and ready for the next OECD ministerial meeting. In the meantime, I and my colleagues, the Minister of Finance, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and other relevant Ministers, will be discussing the issue at every opportunity with members of the European Economic Community.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Skeena. Just a question, please.

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FISHERIES

COVERAGE OF FISHERMEN UNDER UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE ACT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, is the Minister of Employment and Immigration prepared to allay the fears of fishermen on both the East and West Coasts of Canada and to assure them and their communities that they will continue to be fully covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act? Does the Minister, and her Government, agree that fishermen are workers in fact and must be covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity of meeting