

Oral Questions

Mr. La Salle: Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary. Yesterday I asked the Prime Minister to inform the House how much Michel Robert had received from the Government during the last three years. I hope the answer to that question will also be forthcoming from the Government side. In any case, since wage increases were considered to be an important factor in the inflationary spiral, could the Minister inform the House today how Canada's intrepid Liberals are going to convince Canadians that wage cuts are necessary to maintain inflation at a reasonable level? I would appreciate it if the Minister would tell me whether or not the credibility of these men will suffer as a result of the remuneration they are receiving from the Government at the present time?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, since we are exchanging questions, the Hon. Member mentioned \$50 an hour. For an eight-hour day that would be \$400 per day. Mr. Macdonald is getting \$350.

Mr. La Salle: Nine hundred and twenty-five dollars, to be more exact.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, perhaps the Hon. Member would care to listen to what I am saying and refrain from shouting as he did yesterday when I was trying to answer his questions. Fifty dollars an hour is \$400 a day. I also asked him to find out from the Member from Saskatoon what he was charging in his law office. When he does, he will realize what lawyers are being paid. I mentioned Mr. Mulrooney yesterday. The Hon. Member can find out. He has a number of friends in the Progressive Conservative Party who are lawyers. He will see how their figures compare. As far as the fight against inflation is concerned, the Hon. Member knows full well, as I explained yesterday, that we have managed to bring inflation down from 12.5 per cent to around 8 or 9 at the present time. And it is still going down. I think that instead of criticizing for no reason at all, the Hon. Member should support the Government in its efforts to bring down inflation.

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[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR QUEBEC RECIPIENTS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. For some time now his Department has been considering a proposal to allow Anglophone unemployment insurance recipients in Quebec to take French language training required for work purposes without losing their unemployment insurance benefits. As the Minister will appreciate, it is almost impossible to find work in Quebec without a knowledge of French, and consequently it is an essential work skill. Would the Minister say whether his Department has made a decision on this matter to allow unemployment recipients to take a language course where

necessary for work, without losing their unemployment insurance benefits?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, first I would like to thank the Hon. Members for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East and Laurier for having brought this very important question to my attention. I want to report to the Hon. Member that I am personally very sympathetic to the proposal that we adjust the regulations for unemployment insurance to allow language training where it is a job-related matter. What I intend to do, in fact, I have already started the process, is to refer the matter with a recommendation to the Commission to examine the implications and to make a decision within a matter of a week.

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FISHERIES

REQUEST THAT CHARGES AGAINST BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIANS BE DROPPED

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. I was pleased to see that the Minister apologized to the Indian people in British Columbia for remarks made by his Department regarding the 129 Indian people who were arrested on fisheries charges after an entrapment process especially designed for Indian people. Will the Minister request the Minister of Justice to drop all charges based on entrapment so that the Minister of Fisheries can establish a proper working relationship with the Indian people, a relationship that will do justice to their historic rights in the fishing industry and will also protect our fisheries resource? Will the Minister see that these charges are dropped?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, when I met with the Indian people, they told me that an impression had been created leading people to believe they were the worst offenders under the Fisheries Act. That is not so and I have told them that. But let me state it publicly.

Over the last three years in British Columbia 80 per cent of the charges laid by my officers were against white people. If any impression was created that the Indians are the only ones committing offences, that is incorrect. For having involuntarily created any inaccurate impression, I apologize publicly.

As for the charges, it would be completely contrary to my duty to comment on something which is the sole responsibility of the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Justice has told me to convey to the Indian people that if they have any grounds on which the charges can be dropped, that the Minister would study them. I have conveyed that message to the Indian people and it is up to them to put before the Minister of Justice any arguments, facts or elements for his consideration.