

year. This will be the first consecutive three-year decline in the deficit in three decades.

Most important, our responsible fiscal policies have allowed the Government to protect better our existing levels of social programs and promote the Canadian standard of living for future generations. In short, the Government's actions have restored the confidence of Canadians and of the world in our economy.

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## DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION

### WORKFORCE REDUCTION IN TORONTO REGION

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, The Ottawa *Citizen* has reported today that whereas the Government acknowledges that, of 24 enforcement officers in the Toronto region, 10 have been removed over the past year or so, cutting the force to 14, the President of the Canada Employment and Immigration Union local estimates that there are hundreds of criminal immigrants who are going uninvestigated simply for lack of person-hours to do so.

The Government, the Minister or the administration have ordered another internal inquiry into the allegations that were made about mail openings and other problems raised with the post office, but this series of internal inquiries which the union calls witch-hunts will not solve the problem. It will not solve the problem because it allows senior management and regional management to cover up their mismanagement at the expense of any whistle-blowing employee, of whom two have already been fired in the Toronto region. They were fired because they asked to have clear instructions about their work and could not get clear instructions, or could not get instructions that complied with the laws they were supposed to carry out.

● (1415)

I call upon the Government to admit that it cannot solve this by cover-ups through internal departmental inquiries, and to appoint an independent inquiry into the allegations being made of mismanagement in the Toronto and Ontario region in the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, particularly with respect to immigration.

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## FISHERIES

### USE OF SEAL OIL AS FURNACE FUEL

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, a few years ago the Canadian sealing industry was all but ruined by the activity of Greenpeace and similar organizations. Now,

## Oral Questions

with the assistance of government, the northern sealers are striking back.

The National Research Council of Canada has helped to fund the Koomiut Co-op of Pelly Bay to study the use of seal oil as a furnace fuel. The test project would use 1,000 seals. Blubber will be rendered into fuel oil, skins will be used for leather, some meat will be used for human consumption, and all the waste products will be ground up for dog food. Take that, Greenpeace!

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERIES OF FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am pleased to inform the House of the presence in the Galleries of Mr. Léonel Beaudoin, former Member for Richmond from 1968 to 1979.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

### PAPAL VISIT—SELF-GOVERNMENT—CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday John Paul II fulfilled his own promise to our native peoples by visiting Fort Simpson. While he was there he urged upon all of us aboriginal self-government. I think parliamentarians ought to ask ourselves whether we will fulfil our own promise to our native peoples.

Will the Prime Minister agree to place self-government at the top of the agenda for future constitutional discussions as recommended by Liberal Members in our minority report? Will he agree to pursue the issue of self-government until it is achieved?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, at the most recent First Ministers' Conference I proposed an amendment which would have recognized the right of the aboriginal peoples of Canada to self-government. Not only did I propose it, I fought for it very actively at the First Ministers' Conference on aboriginal rights. I fought for it very actively, and it was almost achieved, in 1985 at the First Ministers' Conference.

It is very much a priority of the Government of the people of Canada. We will keep trying until such time as we have achieved this fundamental objective.