

*Oral Questions**[English]*

**Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard):** Mr. Speaker, we have been waiting eight months for the environmental evaluation of the budget. We have been waiting almost a year for the environmental evaluation of energy policy. We have been waiting the same length of time for the environmental evaluation of agricultural policy.

The fact is that this minister's constant fudging on a very firm commitment to the green plan speaks miles about why there is such public cynicism about the political process.

Therefore, will the minister release his working papers on this issue, if indeed he has some, and will he ask his officials to meet within the week with a designated group of environmental organizations, with members on both sides of this House and with the Auditor General so that jointly we can come up with a method to keep to the promise which this member's colleagues are so desperate to keep?

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, there is no fudging whatsoever on this issue.

Evidence of that, if the member absolutely needs an example to illustrate what is going on, is the NAFTA negotiations, the negotiations between Canada, the United States and Mexico, to consider whether we want to enter into a trade agreement with them. The member knows that in that case there is an environmental assessment going on. If he needs a precise example, there is a precise example.

It is for the government within the framework of our own system to work out the methodology. We are doing that now as different dossiers come forth.

If the member absolutely wants to pursue this question, I suggest to him that I would be very happy to go before the Standing Committee on the Environment and offer testimony. Since I have been minister I went before committees four times up until now. I would be happy to go back once a week, if that is what the hon. member wants and if that is what the committee wants.

That is why we have a committee system in the House of Commons.

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**FISHERIES**

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the ministers of fisheries and employment, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister will recall that on October 22 the minister of fisheries said in the House that the federal government had provided more than adequate funding to look after all fishermen and all plant workers who met the criteria of the Fisheries Atlantic Emergency Assistance Program.

Is the Prime Minister aware that today federal officials are telling Atlantic Canada that there is no more funding available to provide for plant workers who meet the program criteria and who should have started work this past Monday?

What is the Prime Minister going to do to ensure that the federal government's commitment to the people of Atlantic Canada is kept at this time?

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency):** Mr. Speaker, the minister of fisheries has been in constant contact with the Atlantic fisheries people and with the Atlantic fisheries minister. He was there last week and met with them. He is well aware of what some of the people are saying, and it is being looked at now.

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Mr. Speaker, when I and other Liberal MPs raised this matter several weeks ago, the minister of fisheries said: "Anyone who can show a reasonable connection to the fishery or to being a plant worker is going to be assisted, or my name is not John Carnell Crosbie".

What is the Prime Minister going to do to restore the name and the credibility in the current circumstances of his no name minister of fisheries?