

S.O. 21

This comes at a time when Scandinavian countries are being given unlimited access to the EEC market. In 1974 Canada was granted an export concession to the EEC which set our newsprint quota at 1.5 million tonnes. By reducing this quota by two-thirds the EEC has clearly violated those GATT provisions which specifically prohibit the reduction of export concessions. Canada has now initiated proceedings against the EEC under the auspices of GATT.

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Canadians whose jobs are dependent on the health of the forest industry, I urge the Government on behalf of my party, pursue vigorously these actions against the EEC in this blatant attempt to discriminate against the Canadian forest industry.

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SMALL BUSINESS**EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL—CALL FOR AMENDMENT OF SMALL BUSINESSES LOANS ACT**

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, there is within Canada the potential to create thousands of new jobs for young Canadians, the potential to turn around the deplorable unemployment statistics created during this Government's tenure. The potential lies with the small business sector, the sector which accounts for half of all employment in Canada. Yet the Government has insisted on bogging down business people with nightmarish regulations and badly co-ordinated programs. Take, for example, the Small Businesses Loans Act, which guarantees loans for small companies. What the Government fails to realize is that unless the Act is changed to include working capital in the loan formula, it is virtually useless to many small businesses.

I recently met with business people in my constituency of Brandon-Souris, and they told me it is all but impossible for small companies to obtain long-term loans at fixed interest rates. Therefore, they cannot risk investing in the developments which would create jobs.

Today more than a half million young Canadians remain out of work. Instead of creating an investment climate which would allow small businesses to put these young people back to work, the Government offers up a costly mixed bag of bungled programs and red tape. Instead of allowing jobs to be created, the Government's policies have contributed to record high unemployment. With that kind of a record the members of the Liberal Government should collectively hide their heads in shame.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FISHERIES**CONDITIONS IN PACIFIC SALMON FISHERY**

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. A Department of Fisheries working paper, which is probably still secret, dated January 5, 1984, states:

The Pacific salmon fishery is in "crisis".

The Pearse Commission reported in September, 1982, in almost the same words:

Canada Pacific fisheries are at a crisis point.

Dr. Pearse also went on to say:

Although aggravated by current conditions, the economic problems and other concerns are rooted in fundamental deficiencies in fisheries policy.

Just a few weeks ago Dr. Pearse said:

The situation in the salmon fishery is now worse than when I made my report.

How can the Minister explain the absolute lack of any action whatsoever over the last several years to address this urgent problem on the West Coast?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member has a very selective memory. In the last few months I have announced an increase in the man years of the Department on the Pacific side, and an increase in funding in order to improve the management side of things.

As for the fishery itself, I think the Hon. Member would agree that the most important problem on the Pacific coast is, and should be, the preservation and the rebuilding of the fishery resource. This is the fundamental problem. The Commissioner to whom the Hon. Member referred, Dr. Pearse, has made suggestions on how to reduce the fishing effort. I think the Hon. Member would agree that his suggestions were not accepted by the participants in the fishery.

DECLINE IN FISH STOCKS

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, the Minister says that he has recently made some appointments in his Department. Dr. Pearse was commissioned to look into what was then known to be a crisis in 1981. The January 5 working paper to which I referred enumerates in stark detail the fact that salmon stocks have suffered a decline; natural stocks are about half their potential and are declining at 1.5 per cent per year. Some stocks have become extinct and, as the Minister knows, Coho and Chinook stocks in some places are also faced with extinction.

The working paper also points out that stocks have been fished at an average exploitation rate of 62 per cent, when 50 per cent is all that should be allowed just to maintain current levels. In view of the fact that in 1982, when the Cruickshank Committee reported: