

Supply

to put an end to the overfishing by Spain and Portugal and by other countries.

These two petitions I have much pleasure in supporting. They are issues that I have talked about on many occasions in this House and I would ask the government to give heed to what the petitioners here in their thousands have said.

[*Translation*]

TAX BENEFITS FOR NORTHERN AND ISOLATED AREAS

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am tabling today a petition from Lebel-sur-Quevillon, in Quebec, concerning the recommendations of the Task Force on Tax Benefits for Northern and Isolated Areas.

Lebel-sur-Quevillon is without question an isolated area, and that is why your petitioners consider the Brunelle recommendation to be discriminatory, unfair and inefficient with regard to the purpose of the Northern tax benefit system. It does not encourage settlement in the North and offers no incentive to develop northern resources.

* * *

• (1530)

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, question no 239 will be answered today.

[*Text*]

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

Question No. 239—**Mr. Harvard:**

Is it the intention of the government to introduce a Safe Drinking Water Act into the House and, if so (a) what is the probable date of introduction (b) will this Act ensure that there is zero discharge of known carcinogens into pristine drinking water supplies?

Hon. Henry Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes.

(a) There is, as yet, no projected date for its introduction to the House of Commons.

(b) It is intended that the proposed "Drinking Water Safety Act" will establish standards for the provision of drinking water under federal jurisdiction, and will provide leadership for the enactment of similar laws by other jurisdictions. The Act will not regulate the discharge of carcinogens, which would come under the scrutiny of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Andre: I would ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The question as enumerated by the Hon. Minister has been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 81—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Gray (Windsor West):

That this House recognize that Research and Development, and the resulting innovation, are the lifeblood of a successful economy and country and that Canada must increase its level of Research and Development in order to ensure economic growth in an increasingly competitive and technologically literate global community.

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Madam Speaker, I would just like to conclude the discussion I began earlier in the day by saying that we know from the figures available to us that public sector spending in terms of research and development is comparable to that of our other OECD partners. What is lacking is a comparable degree of spending with respect to the private sector. The question then is; what do we do about it?

We have been trying to meet with the various sectors. We have been talking to them about exactly where they are in terms of competition with their sectors in other countries, what they need and what we can do to help them in promoting R and D and being competitive. We are looking at what they need. That is the kind of solution and the kind of program we need; an understanding of the whole problem facing the country in