

and teenagers are a cash-poor group who need unlimited local calling to maintain healthy social lives. And, of course, I need not tell any Member in this place about the devastating effect local calling charges would have on small business throughout Canada.

● (1415)

If the CRTC deems deregulation is advantageous for Canadians, so be it. However, Bell Canada should not react with local calling charges as part of a rebalancing for providing cheaper and more competitive long distance rates. If local charges become the only route to maintaining Bell profits, let us have smaller profits and equal service instead.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### FISHERIES

#### FISH INSPECTION STANDARDS

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Perhaps we could just give him a minute to get into his seat.

**Mr. Siddon:** Thank you for your consideration.

**Mr. Henderson:** Would the Minister confirm news reports that fish inspection standards have been lowered? It was only yesterday in the House that the Minister of Health stated—

[*Editor's note: And the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion having entered the Chamber:*]

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Henderson:** I hope that period of applause is not deducted from me, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to welcome the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion back to the House. It is good to see him here.

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

**Mr. Henderson:** Yesterday the Minister of National Health and Welfare stated in the House that rancid fish products are intolerable. Why has the Minister of Fisheries allowed the standards for fish inspection to be weakened? Has the Minister not learned from his Government's mistakes?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, indeed we can be proud of the standards that are applied to the quality of fish products produced in Canada, notwithstanding the unfortunate incidents of recent months with regard to canned tuna products. I can assure this House that the quality standards, while they may have been changed, have not been weakened. Nonetheless, I am taking initiatives

### Oral Questions

that will be announced later today to ensure those standards are reviewed to ensure the ultimate quality of product available to all Canadians.

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

#### REVIEW OF STANDARDS

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear the Minister is going to review the standards once again. Why do the new inspection standards require that smell from rancid tuna be persistent, distinct, and linger for 10 to 15 minutes, before being rejected? Is tuna that only stinks for five minutes okay for human consumption?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Henderson:** I want to ask the Minister some of those questions, and I hope he will look after them.

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, if standards are changed under this administration or this Minister, those changes will be designed to enhance the quality, not to lower the quality of product available to Canadian consumers.

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

#### APPEARANCE OF TAINTED TUNA ON STORE SHELVES

**Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Two months after the Prime Minister said of tainted tuna:

As soon as I found out about it, I dealt with it immediately.

and two months after the Minister of National Health and Welfare recalled the tainted tuna from the grocery shelves, it is still appearing on grocery shelves.

Is the Government so inept and the Minister of Health so incompetent in his control of the Department that they could not get the tainted tuna off the shelves and keep it off?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** No, Mr. Speaker, that is not the case. I want to tell the Hon. Member that we have now recalled over 800,000 cans as a result of the recall ordered in September.

Since September, on the basis along with other responsibilities that people have in the Atlantic region, we have had between 75 and 100 people at a given period of time working on this recall. That is why I think we have had a very good recall with over 800,000 cans having been returned. Two cans have been found and detained. I would think that two cans in the retail system wherever they might have been, behind a box, behind a shelf, underneath a shelf, speak very well for what we have been doing.