

*Oral Questions**[Translation]*

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I answered that question yesterday. The reference was to allegations reported in one of yesterday's papers. The hon. member says he has a letter. They always have letters, and obviously, a decision is not going to be based on those papers. I said yesterday—I asked the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Canadian National to send me information concerning to the question raised by the hon. member, and until such time as I have received that information, Mr. Speaker, I have no further comments to make.

• (1430)

*[English]*

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the minister that the quotations in *The Globe and Mail* yesterday and in *The Gazette* today are absolutely correct. I have the letter in my hand. I will send a copy to the minister. It bears Mr. Gallery's signature.

Now let's not play games. Mr. Gallery is no stranger to the government opposite. He was appointed by the Prime Minister as acting chairman and appointed by the Prime Minister as the lead fund raiser of the Progressive Conservative Party. He is not a stranger to the government opposite.

I want to ask the Prime Minister, not the Minister of Transport: will he take his responsibility and seek the resignation of Mr. Gallery?

Further, will he give this House an assurance that at no time was CN's private dining car used by Mr. Gallery in his efforts as chief fund raiser for the Tory 500—

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

**Mr. Speaker:** I doubt very much whether that suggestion has surfaced in any of the letters.

The hon. minister has the floor.

*[Translation]*

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, once again, these are accusations and allegations, no matter how they are qualified, and any information on Mr. Gallery. That I receive from the Chairman of

the Board of Directors of CN, Mr. Brian Smith, will be considered. But until such time as I receive that information, any assessment will be based on information produced by the Chairman of the board.

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*[English]***FISHERIES**

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

The real tragedy of the east coast fishery is that the crisis was foreseen. The government knew that the resource was being depleted. The government knew that new resource management measures were needed. The government knew that foreign fisheries were taking far too many fish. Yet this government did not listen. Now we see the enormous human and economic costs to the Atlantic region.

If the long-term survival of the east coast fishery demands further cuts, as it may, to the cod quota, is this government prepared to do that? At the same time, will the government put programs in place to ensure that Atlantic Canadians can survive yet another crisis?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, there is not a member in this House who cannot feel compassion and concern for the families and communities of Atlantic Canada affected by unforeseen developments in regard to northern cod stocks off the coast of Newfoundland.

It is not correct for the Leader of the NDP to suggest that these matters could have been foreseen.

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

**Mr. Siddon:** In fact, the projections of abundance on which the quotas were established were made many years ago using inadequate scientific processes in full consultation with all sectors of the industry, provincial governments, under the leadership of a Liberal government of the day and the guidance of Senator Michael Kirby in his capacity as task force commissioner.

Whatever decisions are required in the interest of preserving the resource and ensuring a long-term stable fishery in Atlantic Canada, this government is prepared to take those decisions, to show the human compassion