

Is the minister prepared to disallow the use of chloramine by the greater Vancouver regional district in order to protect salmon and other marine life?

Hon. Brian Tobin (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for his question and advise him that I met just before question period with the AFAWU from British Columbia in my office to discuss a wide range of issues affecting the province of British Columbia.

With respect to the member's question I quite frankly am unable, because I am not properly prepared, to answer the question, although I will take the matter under advisement. I want to assure him that anything that interferes in a serious way with habitat and fish will be investigated and a stop put to it if the problem is as serious as has been described.

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[Translation]

FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE QUEBEC

Mrs. Georgette Sheridan (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Canadian Heritage.

There are several francophone communities outside Quebec. For instance, in my riding of Saskatoon—Humboldt, the francophones in Saint-Isidore-de-Bellevue have worked very hard to have their own school boards.

[English]

Can the minister tell me if the francophones of Saskatchewan and across Canada can count on this government to protect their language and culture?

[Translation]

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage): Mr. Speaker, in October 1993, the federal government concluded a special agreement with Saskatchewan regarding school governance, under which the federal contribution will amount to roughly \$22 million over six years.

On top of these special measures, in 1993-1994, the federal government contributed nearly \$3.6 million to this province under a bilateral agreement regarding minority language training.

And lastly, the government is also supporting the development of the francophone community in general through a three-year \$10 million Canada-communities agreement, and a framework agreement with the Saskatchewan government regarding translation services and the setting up of a francophone affairs co-ordination office. The francophone community in Saskatchewan is being well treated.

Routine Proceedings

[English]

PRESENCE IN GALLERY

The Speaker: I draw the attention of hon. members to the presence in the gallery of the hon. Mr. Wammuhamadnoor Matha, First Deputy House Speaker and leader of the Thai delegation.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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POINTS OF ORDER

COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Elwin Hermanson (Kindersley—Lloydminster): Mr. Speaker, one of the ministers in answering a question challenged a member to table a document. I have such a document, if the minister would still like it tabled.

It is an article from the *Globe and Mail* that quotes Tony Silipo, Ontario's minister of community and social services, who said: "Mr. Axworthy heard very clearly from a number of us provincial ministers at our last meeting—

The Speaker: If there is unanimous consent of the House a private member can table a document. Is there unanimous consent to table this document?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Speaker: It is not agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

• (1505)

[Translation]

BANKRUPTCY ACT

Mr. Pierre de Savoye (Portneuf) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-237, an Act to amend the Bankruptcy Act (priority of claims).

He said: Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the fruits of our labours are sacred. Unfortunately, when a business goes bankrupt, wages are added to other debts and given no special status, which means that in the event of a bankruptcy, employees are deprived of what is owed them.

The purpose of this bill is to change the priority of claims when an employer goes bankrupt, so that payment of an employee's wages and pension fund, up to a total of \$9,000, takes priority over all other claims.

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)