

*Oral Questions*

In response to the Hon. Member's specific question, I will repeat what I stated earlier. I will be glad to look at the piece of paper that the Hon. Member handed to me. I will look at it and return with a specific answer for him tomorrow.

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[Translation]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MR. FRANÇOIS LONCLE,  
PRESIDENT OF THE CANADA-FRANCE SECTION OF THE  
INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw the attention of Members to the presence in our Gallery of Mr. François Loncle, M.P., President of the Canada-France Section of the Interparliamentary Association.

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[English]

## REVENUE CANADA

## USE OF SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBERS

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy—Royal):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Revenue Canada.

Less than one year ago the Government made a commitment to eliminate the use of Social Insurance Numbers as a federal identifier for other than the basic requirement originally intended.

Last fall the Government moved to require it for anyone who deals in bonds, T-bills, interest-bearing accounts, and generally all commercial paper. This has greatly upset a good number of people who now feel, rightly so, that they could be made vulnerable to fraud and theft.

Will the Minister instruct his officials to comply with the announcement from Treasury Board last June, and eliminate the need and the requirement for SIN disclosure, along with the offensive fines and other punitive threats that have been made for non-compliance?

**Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, let me assure the Hon. Member, and all Canadians, that no taxpayer need be worried about vulnerability as a result of providing their Social Insurance Number with their tax returns.

As the Hon. Member knows, Canadians have been required to provide the SIN number since 1967. Every individual Social Insurance Number is protected under the security provisions of the Income Tax Act.

We are constantly working in conjunction with the Minister of Finance and with Treasury Board to try to improve the situation, and I am satisfied that we have made a great step forward in improving the situation thus far, and will continue to work on it further.

The bottom line is that no Canadian need be worried about their confidentiality.

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[Translation]

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

## INTEGRITY OF PROGRAM FOR FISHERMEN—MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Beauséjour):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Last week, in her reply to one of our colleagues, the Minister stated that the unemployment insurance scheme for fishermen would remain intact. The words she used were "full and unchanged". Yet, during her press conference, the Minister changed her tune. She said that changes would be forthcoming following consultations with the Minister of International Trade and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Could the Minister enlighten us and come clean with us?

Will changes to the special program for fishermen be announced in the Budget speech? Could she tell us whether she has bad news in store for some 30,000 families in the Atlantic area who news on unemployment insurance? What is the truth?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I stated that fishermen are not included in the manpower strategy.

[English]

The comment that I made was that a policy regarding fishermen would involve a number of Departments. I did not in any way suggest there were any changes contemplated at this time.

## MINISTER'S STATEMENT

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Beauséjour):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is the following. The fishermen and all those families who depend on UIC would like to know what the Minister meant when she said that the changes to UI for fishermen are going to involve different kinds of changes and would only come after discussion with the Minister for International Trade and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to determine what changes can and will be made to this program.