

*Oral Questions*

jobs have been lost. Of 540 jobs that have disappeared from the Chemainus Mill, over 186 were of workers 54 years of age or older.

What plans does the Minister have to ensure that workers in western Canada, and in British Columbia in particular, will not be discriminated against under the terms of the program, but rather will be able to take advantage of a program that is meant for Canadians in all parts of Canada?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the Labour Adjustment Program is one program which is applicable all across Canada. It is not a plan that should discriminate against some regions. I want to assure the Hon. Member that this program is a national program and will be used all across Canada, and in particular in British Columbia.

With regard to further designation, I want to assure the Hon. Member that this is a last resort initiative by the Government. Clearly, putting people on pre-retirement is not the ultimate goal of the Government. The Government is more interested in creating good, stable, and permanent jobs. It is only when there is no other alternative that we resort to this last initiative, that is, to allow the labour adjustment benefits to permit someone to leave the labour market at an earlier age.

Through consultations with the Department of Manpower and Immigration we are seeking other alternatives for the workers of British Columbia. I think it is more important to create jobs than to put people on retirement.

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[Translation]

**FISHERIES**

## RELATIONS BETWEEN QUEBEC MINISTER AND FISHERMEN

**Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

I have met with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans a number of times to find out whether it would be possible to settle the dispute between Mr. Garon and the fishermen on the middle and lower North Shore. Last year, the Minister announced that about \$10 million would be invested. However, Quebec has always refused to provide land where the fishermen could build their salting sheds or ice machines, on the middle and lower North Shore. I wish to ask the Minister whether he has finally succeeded in finding a way to help the fishermen directly, without affecting the fishing season which will soon be open, and also, when the Department of Fisheries and Oceans intends to get in touch directly with the fishermen to confirm the method to be used, so that the fishermen can at least be satisfied with what this Government is doing and we can then let the province of Quebec do what it likes about the fisheries in Quebec.

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, that was one of the big disappointments last year, after the federal Government had made funds available to our fishermen on the Quebec North Shore so that they could salt their own fish. The funds were approved by Cabinet, and we then asked the fishermen to find suitable sites to build these facilities. Up to now, despite pressure from the fishermen, the Government of Quebec has refused to provide land to build these facilities, which will belong to the fishermen. Because of the Quebec Government's stubborn attitude, all I can do is give the money directly to the fishermen, provided of course they can become owners of the land. We can only hope the Government of Quebec will realize it would be petty to take it out on the fishermen by refusing to give them a piece of land where they could build these facilities.

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[English]

**ESTIMATES**

## REQUEST THAT MINISTER OF ENERGY ATTEND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of External Relations. Last Friday when he was the Acting Prime Minister he undertook that his colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, would be available this week for committees. That is reported at page 3865 of *Hansard*. As he knows, the Minister never was available for committees, in spite of our many efforts, and has not carried out his duties to defend his Estimates prior to May 31. Can the Minister explain why his undertaking was not lived up to?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister for External Relations):** Mr. Speaker, I also read *Hansard* when I happen not to be present, and I saw that the Prime Minister did answer the question. He did take the subject up with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. My information is that the Minister of State for Mines made himself available to meet the committee.

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**FISHERIES**

## CANADA-UNITED STATES WEST COAST TREATY TALKS

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries. A week ago Members of the House from all Parties, including myself and the Members for Kenora-Rainy River, Skeena and Caribou-Chilcotin, met with four American Senators to discuss the breakdown of talks on the West Coast fishing treaty. It has been reported to the Minister that the consensus at that meeting was that the Senators from Alaska and Washington, and the Members of Parliament, felt that it would be to the advantage of both countries to get the talks started again, and that