

pharmaceutical industry which made it possible for generic companies to copy various new drugs.

It was the current Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Turner) who, as the then Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, introduced this Bill which proved so detrimental to Canadians.

Since that legislation, the pharmaceutical industry has declined in Quebec and Canada; Liberals have exported our jobs abroad instead of our goods and services. What is even worse, we, as Canadians, are no longer able to find here the most advanced medicines. Foreign companies refuse to sell them here for fear of their being copied.

However, because I still trust a number of Liberal Members, today I ask the Leader of the Liberal Opposition to allow the Hon. Member for Mount Royal, a physician, to deal with the legislation we have introduced keeping in mind her former clients as well as the three prosperous drug manufacturers in her riding of Mount Royal.

In a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, we will see whether the Liberal Leader is gagging his troupes.

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● (1415)

[English]

### INDUSTRY

#### PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE TO REOPEN NEW BRUNSWICK FISH PLANT

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention and the attention of this House to the still unresolved problems surrounding the Star-Kist plant in Bayside, New Brunswick. The plant is still closed, the people are still out of work, and the unemployment insurance benefits of many of them have run out.

Next Sunday at 6.30 p.m. an outdoor church service will be held at the Star-Kist plant to focus attention on and show concern for the plight of the workers and the community. The Government has a responsibility to help the workers. The Government must find a way to reopen this plant as soon as possible.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

#### FORGET COMMISSION REPORT—MINISTER'S POSITION ON PRESENT SYSTEM

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment

and Immigration with regard to the Forget Report. The Government tried to deindex old age pensions, it cut family allowances, and it is now going to raise drug prices as a result of the legislation currently before the House.

I believe the country has the right to know what the Minister meant when he said yesterday, "Admittedly, the present unemployment insurance system does call for changes". What does the Minister have in mind, or does he know what he has in mind?

[Translation]

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, obviously, the Government would not have bothered to create a commission, the Forget Commission which worked for over a year and a half in order to submit a certain number of recommendations to the Government, if it had not realized there were a number of things in the system that ought to be improved and should be given careful consideration in order to increase the efficiency of a system that costs us \$12 billion a year.

The report has been submitted, and the Government, as I said yesterday, is going to take a very careful look at all relevant studies so that on May 15, it will be able to give Canadians an outline of what it intends to do with the unemployment insurance system.

[English]

#### GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, this has been a great commission. We have had six commissioners, three minority reports, and four supplementary statements. That reflects the same confusion as appears in the ministerial ranks.

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

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Yesterday the Minister refused to commit himself one way or another on the report. The Minister of Transport, in his usual forthright fashion, said that he rejected those recommendations categorically.

In view of the division within ministerial ranks, would the Prime Minister tell us what his Government's intention is with respect to this report? Is the Government, as the Minister of Transport suggested quite clearly on television, going to reject the recommendations of that report?

● (1420)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my right hon. friend is accurate. There is a majority report, a minority report, and two supplementary statements. It is like the Liberal position on trade.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** I suppose that indicates the complexity of the unemployment insurance issue as seen by a distinguished commissioner, Mr. Forget, who was a member of the Cabinet