

The release of July figures in September saw the Canadian and US positions reversed. Canadian figures showed 288,042 tonnes exported to the US, while US figures showed 278,000 tonnes were imported from Canada. The July figures reflected the first month of 1987 in which Canadian shipments decreased over 1986, as well as a decline from a 1987 monthly high of 396,000 tonnes in January. Mr. Wesson of the AISI, however, said, "It is the year-to-date tally which is important, not month-to-month fluctuations The figures talk for themselves. I hesitate to draw any conclusions from the small monthly changes" (*Toronto Star*, September 12).

NDP Concerns

On August 11 the *Ottawa Citizen* reported that a US embassy labor officer had dismissed former NDP party secretary Gerald Caplan's concerns that the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) might interfere in a future NDP government of Canada. Mr. Caplan had made the remarks at the 56th annual Couchiching Conference in Orillia, Ontario. John Becker of the US embassy said, "I can tell you flat that we do not interfere in the internal affairs of an allied government and we certainly are not going to interfere in this country Whatever government Canada elects we will have good relations with that government." NDP president Johanna den Hertog said she did not share Mr. Caplan's concerns. "I think we're quite confident that our relations with the Americans are very good," she said.

Salmon Fishing

In the Commons on August 12 Audrey McLaughlin (NDP — Yukon) asked Fisheries Minister Tom Siddon whether he did not think the Canadian government should pursue aggressively its sovereignty with regard to the Pacific salmon resource. While 50 percent of the chinook salmon spawned in the Yukon River were spawned in Canada, she said, 93 percent were taken by Alaskans and only 7 percent by Yukoners. Mr. Siddon replied that, while the government was attempting to negotiate a successful annex to the Pacific Salmon Treaty, Alaskan fishermen were exceeding the normal quotas set within the Alaskan fishery. For that reason, the Minister said, he intended to consult with the External Affairs Minister on a strong, formal statement to the US government of Canada's concerns.

CP Rail Fined

The US Department of Immigration began proceedings in August against CP Rail for not preventing about fifty people, mostly Brazilians, from using the steel superstructure under a CP bridge between Niagara Falls, Ontario, and Niagara Falls, New York, to enter the US illegally. CP Rail spokesman Jim Barlow said that the company had motor

sensors on the bridge's tracks, but had never suspected that anyone would climb under the bridge and crawl across the gorge, 70 metres below. "They have to be crazy. It's a heck of a drop," he said. A spokesman for the US Department of Immigration said that, while the people had all been arrested in the US, US law placed the onus on the operators of bridges to the US to prevent people from using them illegally. The fine was US\$1,000 per violation, he said, adding that the people — seven of whom had been deported from the US the previous week — must have been desperate: "It is a very horrendous route to take into the United States," he said (*Globe and Mail*, August 21).

Beaufort Sea Drilling

In the Commons on September 3 Lloyd Axworthy (Lib. — Winnipeg-Fort Garry) asked Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski whether the government would be representing Canada's interest in the Beaufort Sea, in light of an invitation for bids from the US Department of the Interior to drill on the Continental Shelf in the Beaufort Sea, including areas of Canadian territory. Mr. Mazankowski replied that he was not up to date on the question, and would take the question as notice. Mr. Axworthy then requested that he ask the Prime Minister to issue immediately a notice of protest to US President Ronald Reagan, since bids were to be considered as of January 1, 1988. A week later, Mr. Clark told the Commons that any bids having to do with disputed territory would be put in escrow until the dispute had been resolved, and that he had been in touch with the US government to remind them of this agreement, made in 1986.

Fermi II Nuclear Plant

The *Windsor Star* reported on September 9 that External Affairs Minister Joe Clark had written to Steven Langdon (NDP — Essex-Windsor) to inform him that the government considered the Fermi II nuclear plant — near Monroe, Michigan — to be properly regulated by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), which was strictly applying US regulatory requirements and bringing operational and management problems to the attention of the plant's owner. The NRC had decided to keep the plant at a maximum of 50-percent of power capacity until operational problems had been solved, the Minister said, and, meanwhile, Canadian officials would continue to monitor closely developments at the plant. Mr. Langdon said that this was not sufficient Canadian involvement, and that 5,000 residents of Essex County — ten kilometers across Lake Erie from the plant — had signed a petition calling for Canadian involvement in an independent investigation of the Fermi plant.