

• (1450)

**Mr. Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** In a nutshell, the panel has been struck. The panel has requested further information from Public Works. They were provided with information last December and public hearings should begin in March. By the end of July, we should be provided with a final report.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold):** Mr. Speaker, the members of the non-governmental organizations who are here today will be very disappointed that the minister is breaking her promise for \$800 million which she made last year. My question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In view of the dramatic developments that are taking place in Europe today and in view of the fact that these eastern European countries are going to need moneys to rebuild their economies, my question to the Minister is this: Will moneys that have been allocated for Third World countries be redirected to help these European economies and countries and cause insufferable hardship on the Third World or will new moneys be allocated for this purpose?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Deputy Prime Minister and I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Wojcik of Poland who has been in the country leading a Polish economic commission holding seminars across the country trying to find practical ways in which Canadian entrepreneurs and others might take part in the dramatic changes in Europe. That is certainly one kind of aid that Canada can extend.

Another kind of aid has been announced by my colleague and by other ministers of the government in a \$42 million package that is available to Poland and other countries. We are, of course, participating in the formation of a new eastern European development bank.

As the hon. member would know, the only way that funds to eastern Europe could be eligible as official development assistance would be if that were so agreed

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by the Development Advisory Committee of the OECD. They have not agreed and that settles the question.

**Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold):** We are happy to hear that these moneys will not be redirected.

[Translation]

My second question, Mr. Speaker, is directed to the Minister of the Environment.

Third World poverty is the most extreme on this planet. If there are any cuts in aid programs for the Third World, the ensuing destruction of forests and the effects of famine will affect the environment of Third World countries and the entire world.

My question is this: Can the Minister promise the House that he will speak to his colleagues to ensure that Third World Aid funding will not be cut?

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention a personal experience I had, and I do so with a great deal of pride. I had the privilege of attending the conference at the Francophone Summit in Quebec City where the Prime Minister was the first to announce that Canada was cancelling all debts of African countries. I still feel very proud of the fact. This decision has enhanced Canada's international reputation, and I don't think we need any lectures from anyone on the subject.

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[English]

### FISHERIES

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries. The minister knows that after much effort by Canadians in processing, harvesting and marketing, redfish has become an important species in Atlantic Canada. For National Sea Products it is now their second largest catch. Yet in a letter dated January 9, to the minister, the president of National Sea expressed shock that without prior consultation or discussion, redfish was being included in a program for under-utilized species and National Sea's allocation was to be reduced below projected catch levels for 1990.

How does the minister justify giving this species away as under-utilized when National Sea wants to harvest it