

*Oral Questions***PRESENCE IN GALLERY**

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw to the attention of hon. members the presence in the Gallery of a parliamentary delegation from Australia, led by the hon. Barry Cohen, member of Parliament.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** I also wish to draw to the attention of hon. members the presence in the gallery of Mr. Vladimir Bulatov, Deputy of the Peoples' Congress of the U.S.S.R.

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

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**AGRICULTURE**

**Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. At a recent meeting Canadian food processors indicated that the so-called level playing field established by the free trade agreement cannot and will not work under the present farm product marketing system. These people are experts with hands-on experience in the food processing and food industries. With this statement and all other recent happenings, does the Minister still say that the free trade agreement protects our farmers and their existing marketing system?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I think the free trade agreement speaks for itself. Clearly supply-management systems were in fact preserved under the free trade agreement, as the hon. member knows.

If things are so bad in the processing industry, I would like to ask the hon. member how come the processing industry has agreed to invest a further 15 per cent over last year in the processing and manufacturing of food products in Canada? It looks as if that tendency is going to be maintained over the next four or five years. I think that is a pretty positive signal.

**Mr. Vanclief:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. The president of the Ontario Food Processors Association has spoken to us recently, and he disagrees with the statement that the minister has made. He speaks on behalf of 46 processors in the province of Ontario alone. His federal association

has in the past had audiences with the minister and has presented briefs to the minister.

Has the minister reviewed those briefs? After reviewing them and those presentations, how does he say that the free trade agreement will continue to protect the food processing industry and Canadian farmers?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I think the best vote of confidence is the fact that processors are indeed investing in more equipment and capital to the tune of 15 per cent more this year than last year. As a matter of fact, I quote the headline in the *Financial Post* of October 18, 1989. "Canada is reaping benefits from the trade deal, U.S. figures show". That applies to agriculture. That applies to the energy sector. That applies to the manufacturing sector. That applies to almost every sector across the country. That is why we are the leaders in the world in terms of economic growth, development and job creation.

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**UNEMPLOYMENT**

**Hon. William Rompkey (Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration who, on Friday afternoon, announced \$2 million as the special response to the crisis in the Newfoundland and Labrador fishery, where by her own admission, 3,400 fishermen and plant workers are affected.

• (1450)

I remind her that last year \$6 million was available to 1,500 fishermen who were affected. In other words, this year the crisis is worse, the amount is less.

Does the minister not realize that if she holds to this course, there will be fishermen and plant workers on the Labrador coast who will be forced into bartering this year in order to survive? Will she give us a commitment now, if the government and unions can show that the need is greater than she has anticipated, that she will increase the amount in order to meet the need?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I should point out that this is only one part of what we are doing in the fishery in Newfoundland. As the hon. member knows, we have a cabinet committee working on some of the problems of the fishery. I recognize the significance of the problem