

Oral Questions

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member could have gotten a more positive answer from the government benches if he had given notice on that particular question. It is a very technical question.

He knows that it is very important to rationalize the shipyards across Canada. Each case has to be treated within that over-all policy. I would be glad to look into this and get back to him.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. It involves the experimental lake areas program run by the Freshwater Institute.

This program, arguably is now and has been among the most important environmental programs run in Canada. It is the program that proved acid rain comes from industrial pollution. It is the program that proved algae comes from phosphates and not carbon. It is one of the lead elements in determining the nature of global warming and its impact on Canada now.

But it is in a funding crunch. I would ask the minister if perhaps he could not come up with the roughly \$450,000 in operating money required this year and, if he is feeling really generous, the \$10 million to do the site upgrading to bring it to first-class, world-class standards.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who is asking the question is in the money crunch and I am in an answer crunch because he was not able to give me notice of this question until during the Question Period. I have not looked at the Edmonton Lakes situation now for some time.

An hon. member: The experimental lakes.

Mr. Crosbie: The Edmonton experimental lakes. Is it in Ontario? Now you really know I have not looked at it recently.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Crosbie: I will do my best and get back to the hon. member, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Edmonton East, short supplemental.

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could jog the minister's memory or perhaps that of his colleague, the Minister of the Environment, with a brief quote from the report of the Auditor General in December in which he said:

The program has clearly reached a critical decision point. The secure financial base is eroded and the program currently relies heavily on unpredictable special external funding sources.

My question is for either minister. Would either minister please come up with the money to keep this flagship program going and make it able to do the work that is vital that it do?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Minister of the Environment would answer affirmatively if he were here.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

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[*Translation*]

MORDECAI RICHLER

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship.

Quebecers were amazed and disgusted to read this morning that Mordecai Richler considers them "a tribe with a self-destructive elite". In Toronto, he admitted that he thought Quebecers were anti-Semitic and a tribal society.

I ask the Minister of State for Multiculturalism to denounce and condemn these racist, offensive, insulting and degrading remarks.

Mr. Speaker: I am very sorry, but questions must concern the administration of government. The question may be serious, but it is not one that concerns the running of government.

Perhaps the hon. member would like to ask another question.

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I put the question to the Minister of State for Multiculturalism and Citizenship because he is the guardian of the spirit of tolerance and generosity in this House.