

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I have listed 42 studies that are still secret.

[*Translation*]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT PUBLISH STUDY ON CLOTHING AND TEXTILE SECTOR

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is as follows: Can the Minister immediately make his study on the clothing and textile industry public so that we may find out whether this report confirms the Quebec study which estimates the loss of jobs in Quebec at 30,000?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, first, I am certain that there will not be that many jobs lost in Quebec or elsewhere. Second, I shall take this question under consideration.

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[*English*]

**FISHERIES**

## ISSUANCE OF CLAM FISHERY LICENCE

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Can the Minister tell us how it is possible to issue a fishing licence to Mother Snow's Fine Foods Ltd. for a test fishery when it does not have any vessels with which to carry out this fishing, as was confirmed by Mr. Bob Nicolay of American Original, the company from which the vessels were supposed to be leased?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is very simple. The entry permit that will have been issued by my Atlantic regional officials to this particular company would be for the purpose of allowing entry of the necessary vessels. I take it from the Hon. Member's question that he personally does not favour the development of this important clam resource off the coast of Cape Breton in Nova Scotia.

**Mr. MacLellan:** What I do not favour is a hoax on the people of Cape Breton.

## BLANK LICENCES INQUIRY

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Is it not true that on January 10 the Minister's office requested the Atlantic regional office to issue two licences in blank to Mother Snow's so that they could market them in the United States and fill in the names of the vessels when they became known?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, this Minister has invited applications for entry permits for vessels equipped to fish for the clam resource, from a number of participants. When those vessels meet the neces-

sary conditions as prescribed, which are fair and equitable and primarily concerned with the development of an economic opportunity in Cape Breton, such licences and permits will be issued.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

## POSSIBILITY OF FLOODS IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of the Environment, and because of the urgency of the question, I will direct this question to the Prime Minister. Is he aware that southwestern Ontario faces what experts agree may well be the worst flooding catastrophe in modern history, with devastation, not only to shoreline property but to whole towns, as well as public health danger which may result from the effect on sewage systems?

Will the Prime Minister direct his Government to do at least as much as the United States federal Government has done and provide federal help to the hard-pressed municipalities in their efforts to prevent the devastation, instead of waiting to pay the costs after the damage is done?

**Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Minister of the Environment. I can inform the Member that the Minister of the Environment, as recently as last Friday, met with the Minister responsible in Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources, had fruitful discussions, and is anticipating further discussions to consider that subject.

## REQUEST THAT TASK FORCE BE ESTABLISHED

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, does the Government agree that there is a long-term problem at issue here and that it would be appropriate, at this stage of the game, to take long-term action such as the formation of a task force to look at the issue of lake levels and flood problems around the lake? Will the Canadian Government consider how it can, with the American Government, address that broader, long-term issue which will be with us for a long time?

**Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, the Government is very aware that this is a long-term problem that has existed for some time and will exist into the future. It is prepared to approach it on that basis. We hope that our discussions with Ontario will be fruitful.