

*Oral Questions*

explanations that are completely irrelevant to the subject.

Surely the hon. member is not alleging that the minister did anything with a criminal intent or sought to take personal advantage of anything. There was a technical violation of the guidelines and the minister resigned.

This should have been a precedent that was enforced throughout the 1970s; it apparently was not.

I think the minister in resigning did the honourable thing, which is completely consistent with the very impressive reputation he has acquired across Canada and the very brilliant future he has in store.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** I wish to ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In 1976, Prime Minister Trudeau announced guidelines for contacts between members of the judiciary and members of Parliament and ministers. I again ask the Prime Minister: Are these strict guidelines still in effect with him and his government?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member talks about precedents. It is well known that in 1971, the Hon. Jean Chrétien made a phone call directly to a judge of the Superior Court of Québec. He did not resign. The Hon. Bud Drury in 1976 intervened directly with a Québec Superior Court judge and he did not resign. The Hon. Robert Kaplan, then Solicitor General, wrote to a judge in 1982 and he did not resign. The Hon. Jean Charest intervened on behalf of the sports community because of the New Zealand Games. He did not intervene for personal reasons. Technically he violated the regulation. He was honourable enough to resign. That is something that should have been done in other circumstances by others in the past.

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[*English*]

**FISHERIES**

**Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It concerns this government's woeful response to the crisis in the Atlantic fishery.

The Prime Minister over and over again has promised generous assistance for those communities hard hit by the downturn in the Atlantic fisheries. But all we seem to get is empty rhetoric.

• (1440)

We hear from the Minister for International Trade that it will be old programs recycled and new money.

We hear from the minister opposite who is responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency that it will indeed be recycled money from recycled programs. The same program that is expected to give the funds is a program called ACOA which was severely crippled by the axe of this government last spring.

My question to the Prime Minister is this. Why does the Prime Minister insist on robbing Peter to pay Paul instead of finding the money necessary to address this very serious crisis caused by his government's own mismanagement in the Atlantic fishery?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in terms of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, it has approved some 7,000 projects in Atlantic Canada with some \$600 million from the federal government which leveraged \$1.6 billion to create 18,000 new jobs in Atlantic Canada. That is the kind of co-operation that Atlantic Canada has been getting from this government. I think that is the kind of co-operation Atlantic Canada wants.

My hon. friend refers to the fishery. There has been \$130 million put forward already. There are initiatives internationally and nationally to deal with what is a grave crisis in the Atlantic fishery—I have acknowledged that many times.

Yesterday, as Premier McKenna indicated in an interview in New Brunswick, there is no crisis in the Atlantic Canadian economy. There are areas of strong growth. Premier McKenna, whose province led all Canadian provinces in investment growth last year, wants to do it again this year.

I suppose what he is too polite to say is that the only problem that could occur in New Brunswick is the bad-mouthing from the Liberal members of Parliament which could have a negative effect on investment intentions in Atlantic Canada.

**Mr. MacDonald (Dartmouth):** Mr. Speaker, my question is again to the Prime Minister. It is pretty incredible that he is getting up on his feet and talking about all the good work that has come out of the ACOA program. If it