

als, families, elderly people or special groups such as the handicapped. Forty-eight housing units at a value of \$1.2 million are now under construction at Chandler. Several non-profit agencies are participating in this program at Ste-Annes-des-Monts, Gaspé, Grande-Rivière and Chandler. Our forecast, Mr. Speaker, is that within two years the riding of Gaspé, thanks to this new program, will have 300 additional housing units if the government of Quebec decides once and for all to authorize the building of new low-price housing in those localities as indicated in the January, 1978 letter of the minister. In two year's time the riding of Gaspé will have 500 more housing units.

Mr. Speaker, before concluding my remarks, I would like to speak a few minutes about the fishing industry in Canada. I would feel guilty if I were not to mention the improvements which have taken place in the Atlantic fisheries since the hon. member for Westmorland-Kent (Mr. LeBlanc) took over the fisheries department. In a speech which he delivered in Moncton last November 10, on the occasion of the meeting of fisheries ministers for the Atlantic region, he said and I quote:

Our policy was based, secondly, on our wish to control fisheries for the good of the people. Although we are entertaining hopes of expansion for our fleet, too many extravagant projects have fallen through. We did not want, at any cost, to be fooled by the extension of our fishing zone to 200 miles. We wanted to use our resources, first of all, to improve the lot of the fishermen, who very often are at a disadvantage, and make them feel they were the main beneficiaries of that common property.

To stabilize fisheries and give control back to the fishermen, we needed sound foundations such as quotas, restricted access and the fishery plan which every year from now on coordinates the development of ground fish. We have emphasized the quality aspect of the products and the importance of orderly industrial operations.

Our efforts have worked. It is no longer a time for laments or blackmail. Never has the fishing industry been so well.

I agree with the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment (Mr. LeBlanc) when he says that the fishing industry is better off than ever before. However, in Quebec and particularly in Gaspé we have serious problems of supply, especially as far as herring is concerned. There is a lack of co-operation between the provinces, fishermen and producers to give Quebecers access to the herring stocks. As fish go beyond limits without being aware of it, Quebecers should be able to take advantage of the herring fishing industry just like maritime fishermen and producers. Herring stocks are limited and the question is who owns that herring?

It is unfair to let maritime fishermen catch all the herring; Quebec fishermen should also have access to those resources since herring is fished a few kilometers off the Gaspé coasts. The fishing fleet of Quebec cannot be equipped for purse seine fishing since the Government of Canada has not issued any licence since 1970. Fishermen and producers of New Brunswick have 27 licences for purse net herring fishing and those of Newfoundland have 32 licences. Not a single licence was issued in Quebec.

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The herring plants of the Gaspé peninsula and the Magdalen Islands operated only for a few weeks in 1978. The fishermen of New Brunswick were supposed to deliver part of their catches to the plants in Quebec but the agreement was not respected. Gill net fishermen cannot supply the plants because their catches are too small. The Minister of Fisheries and the Environment was made aware of the situation in Quebec by hon. members of the Gaspé peninsula, as were also his civil servants and those of Quebec fisheries.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the fishermen, of the workers in the processing plants and the producers, I appeal to the minister and ask him to take steps—the matter is urgent—to ensure that Gaspésians and “Madelinots” can be equipped and get licences like their neighbours in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, that they can get their share of the herring quotas in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Chaleur Bay. Unless a favourable decision is soon reached with regard to issuing licences to the seine fishermen, the herring processing plants which operated only briefly in 1978 will have to shut down, and that, forever. The jobs in the plants which process the larger herring and the value of their production have both increased by about 500 per cent in the maritime provinces in the last few years. Mr. Speaker, the situation is not the same in Quebec. We must find the remedial correctives that are required. The fate of the herring processing plants in Quebec is therefore in the hands of the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment of Canada.

● (1402)

[*English*]

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to participate in this budget debate. I am particularly pleased to follow the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen), who talked about a great number of things and concluded his speech—I do not have the “blues” before me—with the implication that members of my party and my leader have been spreading across this country a great deal of information with respect to the acquisition by Petro-Canada of Pacific Petroleum which is not correct. I listened with interest to what the Deputy Prime Minister had to say about this, and it seems to me that if anyone is spreading false information or alluding to aspects of this acquisition which need interpretation, it is the government.

Let me review what the Deputy Prime Minister said. By implication he said that by taking over Pacific Petroleum, Petro-Canada was increasing the supply of energy for Canadians. At this stage that is patently unprovable. The reality is that Pacific Petroleum is a well operated company. It is operating in Canada and finding reserves. By any measure it is managed well. By the measure of profit Pacific Petroleum is being managed much better than Petro-Can. But no one in this House can say that an increased or assured energy supply will be the result of the acquisition by Petro-Canada of Pacific Petroleum. One has to be somewhat skeptical.