

*Oral Questions*

House whether he intends any new economic policies to control this killer inflation rate which is so devastating to our senior citizens and other low-income people?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member seems to suggest that we could control food prices and—

**An hon. Member:** Interest rates.

**Mr. Trudeau:** —and therefore bring the inflation rate down to 10 per cent.

**An hon. Member:** No, interest rates.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The hon. members did not listen to their own questioner and so, Madam Speaker, I cannot deal with it.

REQUEST FOR ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE ON CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal):** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister has just taken the reverse aspect of that particular question and did not answer it at all. The Gallup poll shows that inflation is a major concern of over half the population. Indeed, a recent poll shows that it is of major concern to over 70 per cent of Quebecers. Based on that, and the fact that over 60 per cent of the people disagree with his method of patriation of the Constitution, why will he not adjourn debate on this motion until the Supreme Court of Canada takes a decision on its legality, and concentrate on measures to fight inflation on which he will have the full support of this side of the House?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, now I do agree with the preamble to the question. The hon. member suggests that we should get on to other business—

**Mr. Crosbie:** You should.

**Mr. Trudeau:** —particularly the financial matters. We attempted all day yesterday to get on to the borrowing bill which the hijacking of Parliament by the official opposition prevented us from doing.

**An hon. Member:** There is another question of privilege.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I hope that they will be a bit consistent. If they want us to deal with other things, as we attempted to do yesterday, I hope they will permit us to do it today, unless of course the Leader of the Opposition is prepared to answer the suggestion made by the Leader of the New Democratic Party, which of course would be the perfect answer to the concern of the hon. member. If we can have agreement in this House on a House order in the direction indicated by the Leader of the New Democratic Party, then indeed we could dispense with this whole matter, I believe he has said in a couple of days, and then indeed we could get on to other things and tackle inflation.

**FISHERIES**

COSTS OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM—ASSURANCE SOUGHT OF RETURN TO FISHERMEN

**Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni):** Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The growing opposition in Atlantic Canada to the quality program announced by the government, and in particular the Newfoundland Fishermen, Food and Allied Workers have officially come out in opposition to the program simply because they feel that it loads the cost of quality programming on fishermen and offers no guarantee that they will benefit from increased quality.

Could the minister give some assurances to the fishermen in Atlantic Canada that his department is looking at ways to see that the price to fishermen increases as a result of their providing better quality?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, I do not see many ways that I could intervene in negotiations as to price between fishermen and processors, but I know one thing: if we do not make sure that our place in the markets is protected and ensured by consistent quality of the fish we export, then I can predict to the hon. member that the price will drop because we will be the first to suffer from tightened market conditions.

**Mr. Miller:** No one in the industry questions the advisability of increasing quality. What the fishermen are saying is that they will have to increase their investment capital and manpower in their vessels, and yet there is no collective bargaining in three Atlantic provinces which would guarantee them a fair price. I am asking the minister if he is suggesting that all they have is hope for an increase in the price of their product, or is there some other mechanism whereby he can assure them that if they put that money in they are going to get some money back?

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Madam Speaker, there is more than hope; there is reality. Of the \$8 million in the boat subsidy program for the year starting yesterday, \$2 million has been put aside for improvement of holding facilities, icing equipment, carrying equipment, gutting machines, etc., to be used on fishing vessels. Two million dollars is already committed to this program, and more will be added if the fishermen so require.

● (1500)

As to the three provinces the hon. member mentioned where fishermen have not yet been given the legal right to organize and to bargain for fish prices, I can only give fishermen one piece of advice: they should throw out the three Tory governments in those provinces.