

*Oral Questions*

I would have to see what the difference is. For the time being, it looks as though the hon. member of the Conservative party is trying to ride on the coat-tails of the Minister of Fisheries. This often happens.

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**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION****INTERDEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION ON EXPANSION OF FISHING FLEET**

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I have forgotten more about fishing than the Prime Minister of this country will ever know. I would direct my final supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In the development of this policy statement by the Minister of Fisheries, was there direct consultation with his department, and is he aware of any direct consultation with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce with respect to the expansion of the existing fleet so that we might reap what is ours and that the benefits be maximized for Canadians, not the Russians and east Germans?

**Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. gentleman that there have been consultations among my officials and the Department of Fisheries over recent weeks on that matter. We are satisfied that the policy arrived at is the best one.

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**TRANSPORT****INTERDEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION ON OPENING OF PORTS FOR REPAIR OF FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS**

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and is based upon the statement which, characteristically, was issued by the Minister of Fisheries on Thursday and delivered to members' offices on Friday afternoon. This is the kind of thing we have come to expect from this government which has so little regard for parliament.

I ask the Minister of Transport if there was consultation with the Minister of Fisheries before the decision was made to open Canadian ports for the repairs of foreign trawlers and crew changes. If so, does the minister intend to carry on a program of port upgrading which is desperately needed in east coast ports, in order to provide the facilities so we can maximize this new opportunity for business in the Atlantic provinces and create the new jobs that could arise from it?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member well knows that our concern for facilities at east coast ports has resulted in announcement after announcement, in city after city, on the east coast for those improvements. I was in the Atlantic region just last week in connection with a further development. I can assure the hon. member that we will continue to make developments happen so that we have

[Mr. Trudeau.]

the facilities to encourage development in that area, which is one of the high priorities of this government.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to know that this is a matter of some priority. I hope it will be given the same priority as the additional expenditures which have been announced for the port of Montreal and the port of Quebec: we hope we can get the same sense of priority in the Atlantic provinces.

I ask the minister if he is prepared to enter into a program of development for the port of Halifax, the port of Saint John, New Brunswick, and the port of St. John's, Newfoundland, for shipyard facilities in each case and the provision of a synchrolift in Newfoundland that was asked for by my colleague, the hon. member for St. John's West. All these things are desperately needed in order to maximize the opportunities arising from this policy statement for which we have been pressing for a considerable period of time.

● (1422)

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what we are doing. I am happy the hon. member and some of his colleagues finally agree that it is all right to spend money on ports in other regions as well, just as we are making major expenditures in Prince Rupert, on the west coast. A week ago today I was in Saint John, New Brunswick, for a sod-turning ceremony in connection with a new forest products terminal, only several months after we opened a new forest products terminal there, so that we will have the facilities that are required in that area.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lang:** Port by port, we have major developments going forward throughout the Atlantic region. We are spending very large amounts of money indeed.

**An hon. Member:** What about Halifax?

**Mr. Lang:** The hon. member asks, "What about Halifax?" Surely, the most important development of all is the container terminal which is under construction in Halifax.

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**THE BUDGET****SUGGESTED LEAK BEFORE INTRODUCTION**

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I preface my question by reminding Your Honour that I gave you notice of my intention to rise at three o'clock on a question of privilege concerning the same subject. Could the Prime Minister inform the House whether he or the Minister of Finance has ordered an inquiry into the possibility of a budget leak?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member was good enough to inform me at a couple of minutes to two that he would be asking this question. I have been unable to communicate with the Minister of Finance in