EMPLOYMENT

INQUIRY RESPECTING INCREASE IN FUNDING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In view of the high seasonal unemployment in many areas of Canada and the oversubscription of the community development program this winter, will the minister give consideration to increasing the funding for the community development program this winter?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, as we pointed out in the House last week, the Minister of Finance, in his generosity, was able to include additional funds in the budget to provide further work incentives and training opportunities for Canadians. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and I hope that we will be able to make some announcements concerning the wide range of programs within a very few weeks.

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FISHERIES

ALLEGED VIOLATION OF GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. In view of the fact that the minister has received a telex from the Nova Scotia Fish Packers Association charging that the reallocation of 10,000 tons of codfish is in violation of the basic principle of the groundfish management plan, what changes, if any, does the minister contemplate to meet these objections?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I would assume that if the fishermen represented by the hon. member were involved in an industrial dispute, then once that was settled, at the end of the season the quota which had not been caught should be primarily reserved for the fishermen of the area or the plants where they have traditionally delivered.

● (1500)

In the case of Newfoundland, there was a lengthy strike this summer. A part of the quota which is normally reserved for the inshore fishery was not caught. Plants were short of supply and I authorized that that fish could be made available to the plants which had been very seriously affected by the industrial dispute. That is the simple explanation.

Mr. Crouse: Madam Speaker, since objections have been raised to the minister's plan of allowing additional foreign participation in the catching of this codfish, I would like to ask the minister why he did not reallocate any surplus quotas for 1980-81 to Canadian trawlers rather than foreigners; and will Canadians be allowed in 1981 to catch any part of the 10,000 ton quota not landed by the end of this year?

Mr. LeBlanc: Madam Speaker, the 10,000 quota is from the Canadian allocation. It was not caught by Canadian inshore fishermen because of the strike, as I said earlier. The trade association and the fishermen's union agreed that the way to allocate it was to the Newfoundland plants which were short of supply. They tried to get Canadian boats to catch some of this fish. In fact, because of the continuing strike at National Sea, the union did not agree to this procedure. Some foreign boats were brought in. Not enough of them could be found. The next question, which nobody ever asked, is whether the plants could afford the fish at the price that Canadian boats would have landed it?

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PRIVILEGE

MR. SIDDON—COMMENT MADE BY MR. ROSE

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I will try to be brief. I would like to raise a question of privilege arising out of a comment made by the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose) earlier during the question period. I was not able to comprehend what the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody was trying to say when he proposed his motion under Standing Order 43 earlier today, but I do believe I heard him allege that this hon. member is consistently stupid, or that I might have used such a reference in relation to a Conservative colleague of mine from British Columbia.

The hon. member knows that neither of these allegations is true. In fact he knows full well that the only stupidity which is consistent in this House is the consistent inconsistence of the little red rump of the Liberal party which he represents. That was illustrated this past weekend by the open split among his own NDP cohorts in Nova Scotia where the former leader of the NDP apparently resigned in protest because he found the NDP to be full of Trotskyites.

The hon. member for Mission-Port Moody, who has been in this House for many years, should want to maintain normal parliamentary decorum by apologizing for his attempt to insult indirectly and unfairly one of my colleagues from British Columbia who is not here today to defend himself.

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, on the same question of privilege, I regret to report that the hon. member for Richmond-South Delta (Mr. Siddon), who is reported to be a professor of acoustics, apparently cannot listen any better than he thinks.

I would like to repeat what I said. I said that he was quoted in the press concerning his colleague as saying he used "very little forethought coming to the meeting and insulting people", and since the member was also described by another Tory in British Columbia as "consistently stupid", I moved the motion congratulating the hon. member.

There certainly was no insult intended. It was actually a congratulatory message. Since the hon. member is talking