

### Oral Questions

cially with regard to fleet rationalization and the buy-back program of the Minister's advisory committee, or has that been ignored by his departmental officials? Can the Minister tell us anything about the Government's plans with respect to that proportion of the fishery that will be allocated to the native people in British Columbia as opposed to the non-native fishermen in British Columbia? These are important questions and should be answered.

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member has pinpointed the most important issues concerning the Pacific fishery which, as he says, faces some very, very crucial problems. The Speech from the Throne does state unequivocally that the Cabinet will be addressing those issues related to all the aspects of the Pacific fishery, whether commercial, the native participation, or the recreational fishery, on an urgent basis, to use the words in the Speech from the Throne. As the Hon. Member said, meetings are going on concerning these different issues. My Department is very much involved. The Cabinet will be seized of all those different suggestions, and I hope that within the next few months Cabinet will make some very important decisions.

● (1120)

#### BUY-BACK PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, it is all very well for the Minister to say that some important decisions are going to be made and some important announcements are going to be made. I want to tell the Minister that I will be at one of these meetings tomorrow. They are called crisis survival meetings. I have to ask the Minister to be more exact. Has the Minister, in fact, decided, for instance, what the buy-back program is going to be? Is it going to be announced, and when is it going to be announced?

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** To answer that precise question, Mr. Speaker, if a buy-back program has been decided by the Government, what kind of program—

**Mr. Fraser:** If?

**Mr. De Bané:** On those questions I must emphatically say no. There is no purpose in me going to Cabinet to bring the different options, et cetera, if a decision has already been made. Doctor Pearce, who presided over the inquiry into the Pacific fishery, came forward with a suggestion on how to do a rationalization—a reduction—of the fishing effort on the Pacific coast. This suggestion was unanimously rejected by all the participants in that fishery.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the thorniest part of the whole problem is how to reduce the fishing effort. I think the Hon. Member will concur that, despite all those who have studied the problem up to now, that particular question has eluded a solution acceptable to all participants. As the Speech from the Throne stated, the Government will make decisions in the next

few months, but at this point those decisions have not been made.

#### ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your indulgence. The Minister's advisory council in British Columbia has made recommendations about a buy-back program which affect very specifically the restructuring of the fleet. Can the Minister advise this House, the fishing industry, and the people who make their living from it in British Columbia whether or not he is prepared to accept the recommendations on buy-back that were given to him by his advisory committee, or have those recommendations been rejected by his senior officials?

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the Hon. Member that, first, it is not the officials who make such a vital decision, only Cabinet will make such a decision.

Second, we are talking about an issue that is very, very costly. We are talking of an amount between \$50 million and \$400 million. This is a hell of a lot of money. I would like the Hon. Member to tell me if the Conservative Party is arguing that the taxpayers' money should be used to buy surplus assets, over capacity assets, unused assets, in all sectors of the industry? This is a fundamental question and I think it will have to be studied very carefully.

Third, I would like to say to the Hon. Member that if there is something to which I have committed myself since I became Minister of Fisheries and Oceans it is to give the highest consideration to the recommendations of the Minister's advisory council.

\* \* \*

#### THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

##### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES— DECENTRALIZATION OF MAPPING BRANCH

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Hon. Member for Sherbrooke has advised his local paper that half of the Mapping and Surveys Branch at the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, involving some 400 or 500 people, will be moved from Ottawa to Quebec. Since this move will involve the expenditure of about \$75 million for a new building alone, plus related moving costs, will the Minister confirm this move and, if so, would he explain why he is indulging in this kind of unnecessary expenditure at a time of restraint?

● (1125)

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the decisions on decentralization were made in 1976. This move was one of the few which were not cancelled in 1979 by the then President of the Treasury