

Oral Questions

would be a good issue to be resolved in the trade talks. He knows that he made that link himself—not I, but the Minister.

Last December 9 the Secretary of State for External Affairs said that these export restrictions:

—are essential to the effective conservation and management of the fishery. We have made it clear that the Government does not intend to terminate these restrictions.

Last month the Minister of Fisheries said:

I give my assurance those jobs aren't going to be jeopardized in any way.

Does the Minister still stand by that assurance, and can he tell the House how he will carry out that commitment?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Of course, Mr. Speaker, I stand by that assurance. I want to point out to the Hon. Member, as has been stated by my colleague, the Minister for International Trade, that whatever is the situation with respect to provincial processing regulations in Atlantic Canada it is quite a different situation on our West Coast where many forms of unprocessed fish are exported from British Columbia, including groundfish and some forms of salmon.

The Hon. Member also knows that there are a variety of considerations here involving other nations, in particular, the whole question of the herring roe fishery and the important ability to maintain certain processing standards in Canada before the roe is exported to Japan.

This is, indeed, a multilateral issue and is to be properly dealt with before GATT, which is the course of action we are taking in order to ensure that our processing standards in Canada are maintained.

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON ISSUE

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is again for the Minister of Fisheries. Obviously the Americans think they have the GATT decision already in the bag. That is why they refuse to make any concessions on the Pacific fishery.

The primary consideration is the 4,000 to 6,000 shoreworkers' jobs that are in jeopardy. In light of the fact that the Government has betrayed their interests in its desire to get a free trade deal with the United States, can the Minister give any reason that Canadian workers from one end of Canada to the other should put any trust in the Government? Why shouldn't they completely reject the Government and why shouldn't they have their request granted now for an election before this deal goes into effect?

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): That is an easy one for you, Pat.

Mr. Riis: Yes or no.

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the reason that Canadians may not believe our claims

that we will deal with this before the GATT, where this problem initiated, is because of the extravagant claims made by the Opposition, glooming and dooming over other issues, such as the shakes and shingles industry which they said was going to lay off hundreds of thousands of people, and the softwood industry which was going to lay off hundreds of thousands of people.

Mr. Riis: What about the Okanagan grape industry?

Miss Carney: People will equate what we said about job creation, our 1 million new jobs, against what the Opposition said about the loss of jobs, and people will make up their own minds.

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CANADA LANDS COMPANY

SALE OF EXPROPRIATED MIRABEL LANDS—REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF ROYAL COMMISSION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It concerns the management, operations and dispositions of properties by the Canada Lands Company at Mirabel. Today the media report that there may be as many as 50 expropriated owners in the Mirabel area whose properties were subsequently flipped. There are also reports that the Crown corporation in question has failed to file its financial statement pursuant to the Financial Administration Act.

Given this new information and the issue that I raised in this House yesterday and, given the transaction involving the industrial park in Mirabel that I brought to the attention of the House in October of this year, will the Prime Minister now do the right thing and appoint a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the functioning, management, operations and the disposition of properties by the Canada Lands Company at Mirabel?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the Government instructed the Mirabel corporation to return to the original owners of the lands in that area those which had been expropriated and which were surplus to the needs of the corporation. That has been done and that procedure has been followed. All of the original farm owners have been contacted and been given the option to purchase the land. That procedure was universal.

With respect to the filing of the statements of the corporation, the documents were presented to the Auditor General. He questioned some of the items. I immediately asked the special audit team of my Department to make further inquiries. Those inquiries have almost been completed. There is a meeting of the board in the next two days and I will be able to report more fully to the House then.