

Oral Questions

Mr. McDermid: Which should rightfully come under the Department of Transport Estimates.

Mr. Johnston: —has the extraordinary gall to stand up and criticize the program.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Hon. Minister replying to the question asked by the Hon. Member for Cariboo-Chilcotin?

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, it has been very much a part of the program to ensure that Canadians appreciate the benefits of the recovery which was announced in the Budget of the Minister of Finance last year.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Johnston: The whole purpose of the program was to fill in that investment vacuum which, unfortunately, is still present in the private sector.

As we see construction sites springing up across this country from coast to coast—

Mr. Crosbie: A grab bag of pork.

Mr. Johnston: —and when we see institutes like the Maritime Forestry Research Institute in the riding of the Hon. Member for York-Sunbury, let us hope that the private sector will be encouraged and stimulated to make investments to take advantage of the recovery—

Mr. McDermid: Bribe it with its own money.

Mr. Johnston: —which the Government has done so much at this point to bring about through this program, and the other recovery aspects of the April Budget.

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FISHERIES

STATE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDUSTRY

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The Minister is aware that a year ago, under supreme pressure from his ministerial Advisory Committee, he indicated that the Pearse Report was behind the committee, and they would go on from there. Despite that confirmation, the Minister's Department is still coming up with proposals for vessel quotas, area licences, transferability of licences, and the privatization of the resource. In view of the total opposition to those concepts in the fishing industry, could the Minister indicate whom he is listening to in his consultations? Which fishermen are advocating a decimation of their industry in a situation where we could get into real estate transactions on the high seas and on British Columbia's watersheds?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I believe the Hon. Member is really out of touch because yesterday I did meet in Ottawa with over 100 fishermen from the Pacific Coast. They were unable to meet with

Members of the provincial legislature in British Columbia and had to come to Ottawa to meet with their Members of Parliament. It was a very friendly and constructive meeting. They were so happy with that meeting that they proposed we have another meeting in Vancouver this weekend, and I have readily accepted that suggestion.

As I have told them, I am at this moment preparing a document for consideration by Cabinet. In order to be sure that I have not forgotten any option or issue, I have put before them a list of the whole spectrum of issues which are facing the Pacific fisheries, and I can report to Hon. Members that they agree I have not forgotten any of the different issues and options that will be considered in due course by Cabinet.

Mr. Miller: The Minister will be aware that his ministerial Advisory Committee has been meeting for a year, and the recommendations his Department has been putting forward to that committee have resulted in 125 fishermen coming from B.C. to reject the proposals which have been made by his Department.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER TABLE REPORTS AND DEPARTMENTAL PAPERS

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): A decision of the Fisheries and Forestry Committee was made this morning, after discussing issues with the same fishermen, to travel to British Columbia and again hear firsthand from British Columbia fishermen. As well as meeting with his ministerial Advisory Committee this coming week, and with the Fishermen's Survival Coalition, is the Minister now prepared to table in the House of Commons the last options paper which his Department has prepared, the Pearse report, the Cruickshank report, and any other documents which might help the Fisheries and Forestry Committee to deal in an honest and open way with that fisheries crisis, so that we can bring some recommendations back to the Minister as well?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, all those documents, of course, are public, and it is up to the committee, and its steering committee, to make whatever decision they want. I am not going to dictate the agenda of the parliamentary committee. I have too much respect for my fellow Members of Parliament.

Mr. Miller: The Minister knows that we have been attempting to have these documents tabled in the House for some time so that the committee can deal with them. They have to be tabled before we can officially deal with those documents.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER TABLE LEGISLATION

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): In view of the concern that the B.C. fishing industry has, including the communities dependent on that industry, and businessmen and service industries, rather than bringing about major changes in the fishing industry in British Columbia through a one-day debate, as he did in the East Coast fishery under Bill C-138, will the