

Oral Questions

that are not doing well in the economy today, such as Maislin, Dome Petroleum, Canadair, de Havilland and Massey-Ferguson, to the Standing Committee on Finance? Will he refer this in a special reference to the Finance Committee in order for it to study these implications and why they have happened, as well as what consideration the Government is taking into account when it is establishing the policies for bailouts?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the estimates of all the various departments are being put before parliamentary committees. The parliamentary committees are meeting. If my hon. friend wishes a particular Minister to appear before a particular committee, surely he can arrange that through his own means in the various parliamentary committees that are in place.

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FISHERIES**KIRBY TASK FORCE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans I would like to direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. Has the Kirby Report been received by the Government and, if so, does it recommend the nationalization of any fishing companies in Atlantic Canada?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the report has been received by the Government. It is currently being examined by the Government and it is likely that the report will be made public at a certain point. Until that occurs, I do not think that I can give him a preview of the contents of the report at this time.

REQUEST FOR GUARANTEE OF NON-NATIONALIZATION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, in view of the Government's inability to run the railroads properly, the Post Office and the National Energy Program, just to name a few of its problems, will the Minister give a guarantee to the House—

Mr. Nowlan: Ironclad.

Mr. Crouse: An ironclad guarantee, as my colleague from Annapolis Valley-Hants says, that the Government will not become involved in the nationalization of any fishing operations, not only in Atlantic Canada but in all of Canada?

● (1430)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I am not precisely sure what the Hon. Member means by "nationalization of the fishing industry". I do not believe that that is on the mind of the Government at all. But I believe he

would accept the notion that there are some present opportunities for the Government to support and to strengthen the Canadian fishing industry, and it is to that role that the Government is directing its attention as a result of the Kirby Task Force. I am sure the Hon. Member would not ask us to take a totally and completely hands-off attitude with respect to the future development of the Canadian fishing industry.

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MINES AND MINING**UNION RECOMMENDATIONS ON STOCKPILING**

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Mines. The Minister will know how serious is the dilemma facing the thousands of mine workers in her own area, the Sudbury area, because of the virtual collapse of Canada's nickel industry. I would like to ask the Minister how seriously she is taking the recommendations of the major mine workers' unions that the federal Government participate in a major stockpiling program. If such is under consideration, does she envisage that the federal Government might want to take a piece of the equity of INCO or Falconbridge in return for such initiative, which might lead to the nationalizing of Canada's nickel industry? If not, what solutions does she have to offer to the thousands of mine workers in her own constituency who are faced with serious unemployment in the winter?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)): Madam Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Hon. Member was not present this morning when the Task Force on Mining Communities made its report. The Task Force did not recommend the purchase or, indeed, participation in equity in any of these companies for very good reason, because not only is International Nickel in trouble, but so is every other mineral producer, with the exception of gold producers, in similar circumstances, and it would be quite ludicrous even to contemplate the possibility of stockpiling all these metals, which would quickly reach a figure of \$15 billion or \$20 billion. However, the Government is very concerned about those workers. If the Hon. Member had been present this morning he would have known that we were discussing job-creation projects which will put many of those workers to work in those areas which will increase productivity. I hope that he will encourage those communities in which he is actively involved to participate in these projects.

RESTORATION OF COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of State for International Trade, who will know that the reason Canada's mining industry and other natural resource sectors are in such difficulty is because we have lost our competitive advantage. I want to know what initiatives Canada is taking to ensure that we restore our competitive advantage