

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue): I know my colleague does not wish to be unfair. The Government has encouraged research by clarifying the R and D guidelines, and taking other efforts in this regard. I repeat to him that the SRTC program, as his Party and his Leader know, was one of the worst programs ever to be introduced. In the interests of fairness we could not arbitrarily cut it off without giving further assurances in the way of grandfathering some programs. We are making sure in every case possible, including this one, that the effects are monitored closely before it is finally phased out.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF SASKATCHEWAN MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of Hon. Members the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Grant Schmidt, Minister of Social Services for the Province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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NATIONAL PARKS

PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK—OPPOSITION TO TOLL-GATE PROPOSAL

Mr. Ted Schellenberg (Nanaimo—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. The Minister will be aware that Parks Canada plans to install a toll-gate at Pacific Rim National Park in my riding. The local community believes that this will damage the tourism industry, and it will probably not be cost effective due to the remoteness of the area. Why is a toll-gate necessary in the Pacific Rim National Park? Will the Minister reconsider the decision to install that toll-gate?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): There has been in place for a long time a general policy to charge entrance fees at the most heavily patronized national parks. In this case we are applying the policy because the Pacific Rim is one of the most popular parks. The B.C. Government, and the Hon. Member, have made the argument that, because the federal Crown owes the provincial Crown some \$25 million in connection with outstanding issues surrounding that park, we ought not to be charging entrance fees until the bill is paid.

In a few days time I will be flying to British Columbia to speak to my opposite number, Stephen Rogers, the Minister of the Environment and Parks, to discuss the question. I will certainly take the Hon. Member's own views into account when I attend the meeting.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

FISHERIES

CANADA-FRANCE AGREEMENT—RESPONSIBILITY FOR TAKING DECISION

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and I am simply repeating that of my colleague the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—East Richmond.

Was the decision concerning the Canada-France agreement on fish stocks taken by Cabinet or by the Prime Minister's Office?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): I thought I had already answered that question. It was a government decision.

Ms. Copps: No, you did not.

[Translation]

Mr. Robichaud: Well then, Mr. Speaker, I shall ask my supplementary question: second verse same as the first! Would the Minister be good enough to answer this question to which we believe he has not given an answer? Was the decision taken by Cabinet or was it taken by the Prime Minister's Office?

[English]

An Hon. Member: Questions ought not to be repeated.

Mr. Mazankowski: This was a government decision.

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IMMIGRATION

MINISTER'S BROADCAST STATEMENT

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The Minister spoke with pride a few days ago of the purity in population and culture of his region around Lac St-Jean and along the Saguenay River. The question is simple. Will the Minister withdraw these racist comments that he made on behalf of the Conservative Party on the CBC's French language network?

• (1450)

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am appalled that a Member of this House would dare to use for such purposes an issue which has always received great attention in this country.

The Hon. Member should know that I did not at any time refer to immigrant or refugee communities or to any other