

Oral Questions

Canada's fishing industry, because our fishing industry is an export-dependent industry. We must therefore play by the fair rules of trade and ensure our own fishermen maximum dollar for their resource by allowing them to trade and to export in a free trade arrangement with the United States.

Mr. Speaker: A single question from the hon. member for Edmonton East, and a single question from the hon. member for Wild Rose. That will conclude Question Period.

* * *

CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Yesterday in The Netherlands, Canada joined most other industrialized countries in agreeing to stabilize carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2000, even though the Environment Minister is quoted as saying: "We would like to have signed something a little stronger". Also yesterday, the Minister of Energy introduced two bills to approve federal government participation in Hibernia and OSLO, two projects which will produce another 20 to 35 million tonnes a year of carbon dioxide emissions. Will the government establish new programs, such as increased support for fuel ethanol and conservation measures, that would reduce CO₂ emissions by an amount equal to the 20 to 35 megatons a year by which Hibernia and OSLO will increase CO₂ emissions?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is right when he quotes the Minister of the Environment as saying that Canada would like to have seen something a little more substantial coming out of the conference in The Netherlands, but Canada's position will remain such that we will keep pressing both at the international and at the national level, in the various responsibilities that we have, to address the question of CO₂.

On the question of OSLO and Hibernia, I find it interesting what the hon. member has asked because these bills were tabled yesterday and received first reading. The NDP is opposed to OSLO.

Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East): Wrong. Absolutely wrong.

Mr. Epp: New Democrats are opposed to OSLO on the basis that it is going to create the difficulties the member mentioned in his question. They are opposed to having energy self-sufficiency. They are opposed to development in Alberta. They are opposed to Hibernia. I guess they want the unemployment in Newfoundland. They do not want the industrial benefits in Newfoundland. I am simply saying, you want all the benefits but you do not want to take any of the responsibility.

* * *

TOURISM INDUSTRY

Mrs. Louise Feltham (Wild Rose): Mr. Speaker, a significant number of my constituents involved in the tourist industry are concerned about recent actions affecting their industry, namely environmental restrictions in national parks, cuts to VIA Rail, and the effects of the proposed GST on their highly concentrated service sector industry.

My question is for the Hon. Minister of Finance. Will the minister commission a study which will determine the long-term effects that the GST will have on the tourist industry, especially in western Canada?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to answer my hon. friend's question. First, tourism is probably the most environmentally friendly industry in the country, and sustainable development is usually enhanced by tourism more than by any other industry.

Second, in terms of VIA Rail, we are maintaining the high volume routes in western Canada, and we are also opening an opportunity which was not there before for the private sector to move in to providing passenger rail service for tourists in the future.

In terms of a study, we have had the Conference Board study. We are going to be doing a price-value study. We are also doing a major study of the U.S. market. What it is showing us is that tourism in Alberta, British Columbia in particular, and the west is growing by leaps and bounds and will continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Deputy Prime Minister on a point of order.