

EAST COAST FISHERIES

Mrs. Jean Payne (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, today the ministers of fisheries and human resources announced a new five-year \$1.9 billion package to assist east coast fisherpeople and plant workers.

This government has taken a long term approach to ensure the future prosperity of the people of Newfoundland, including St. John's West. The money will be an investment in their future, the future of the fishery and the future of the people.

Training programs and green projects will allow people to improve themselves and their working environment. The people of St. John's West can take comfort in the fact that this government has listened to their concerns.

I want to commend the ministers and this government for the manner in which they have so humanely dealt with this difficult problem.

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● (1415)

[Translation]

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. Martin Cauchon (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to take advantage of my allotted time to talk about economic growth.

This morning, Statistics Canada announced that, after growing by 0.9 per cent in February, the composite index had continued to progress in March with an increase of 0.7 per cent. Seven economic components out of ten showed a marked improvement. It is a very positive sign for our country.

I would like to add that Canadian production remains very strong. Today, Statistics Canada reported that our exports to the United States, our main trading partner, reached record levels. This proves that our government's economic recovery plan is working and that the finance minister's budget was right on target.

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[English]

WORLD CURLING CHAMPIONS

Mr. John Solomon (Regina—Lumsden): Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I offer congratulations to the Canadian men's and women's world curling champions in winning the 1994 global titles.

Residents of Saskatchewan, and all Canadians, are especially proud of the Sandra Peterson rink of Saskatchewan which gave Canada its second consecutive world curling championship. Sandra Peterson, Jan Betker, Joan McCusker, coach Anita Ford

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and lead Marcia Gudereit, who lives in my riding of Regina—Lumsden, are top athletes that deserve our praise and admiration for their accomplishments, the only Canadian women's team to win consecutive world championships.

These women have worked hard and their dedication to curling has paid off. They have developed a controlled defensive style that has brought them the victories they deserve. This team is named the Rat Pack because their mascot is a rubber rat.

I know all members of the House will join with me in applauding the efforts of our world class Rat Pack in winning the world championship.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

ACTION PLAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

Although several provinces were opposed, the federal government decided to go ahead and announce its youth strategy last Friday. The Quebec Minister of Education, who also chairs the Conference of Education Ministers, called this an example of unacceptable intrusion by Ottawa in the education sector and even considered challenging the government's decision before the Supreme Court.

Does the Prime Minister realize that his strategy is not only an intrusion in an area under provincial jurisdiction but also that Quebec and several other provinces have agreed to oppose the government, since the strategy will create further costly and unnecessary administrative duplication and overlap, which means less value for money?

Hon. Marcel Massé (President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister responsible for Public Service Renewal): Mr. Speaker, no one questions the jurisdiction of Quebec and other provinces over education. Of the three programs announced last Friday, the first is a program to help students. Quebec opted out of this program in 1964.

The second program, which targets young people, is not really about education but about promoting youth employment. The federal government had and still has a number of different programs in this area, like Katimavik, for instance, and we have made every effort to ensure that the federal program is complementary to the provincial program.

The third component, the national apprenticeship program, helps young people make the transition from school to work, a problem that is both federal and provincial. Both governments