

*Oral Questions**[English]***FISHERIES**

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the acting Minister of Fisheries.

In view of the extraordinary gap in the maritime surveillance off Canada's coastline—the longest in the world—and particularly in light of Recommendation 22 of the Harris report regarding the provision of additional resources to undertake this task, could the minister inform the House precisely what action he plans to redress this serious deficiency?

• (1450)

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, permit me to answer on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries who is, as the hon. member will know, on the east coast consulting on precisely these matters.

As I understand it there has just been a contract signed with a private sector firm in St. John's, Newfoundland. It is a contract which will result in the doubling of the hours that will be contributed to surveillance. Much better technology will be employed. Our capacity to know what goes on off the east coast will be much, much improved.

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Mr. Speaker, I know about that, and I thank the hon. minister for refreshing my memory.

That does not even make up for the 1,400 hours that the trackers are going to lose. That is a drop in the bucket.

You can have good science, good laws, good regulations and all the resources in the world, but unless there is proper and sufficient surveillance, monitoring and control of the fish stocks we are fighting a losing war.

The fishermen, the scientists, the bureaucrats and the task forces are all telling him, as we and the world are telling him, there is a need for real action now by this government to control over-fishing. The question is when is the minister going to get on with it?

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member just admitted that his memory had to be refreshed about the contract that was just signed.

The trackers covered roughly 1,700 hours of tracking. The new contract will cover 3,815 hours of tracking. There will be 33 new additional jobs contributed to this particular activity. There will be new technology. For instance, the Litton V-5 search radar which is the latest development in the world will be employed in this particular exercise.

What else does the hon. member want us to do? He is, as usual, way behind the times.

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*[Translation]***TRADE**

**Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca):** In French?

**Some Hon. Members:** Yes.

**Mr. Barrett:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. My question today is about free trade.

*[English]*

That is the end of that.

My question is for the Prime Minister about his statements concerning the signing of a free trade agreement between Mexico and the United States. It is one thing to speak, Mr. Prime Minister, of Mexico-United States negotiations outside the context of the agreement we have between Canada and the United States, but the fact is that 43 per cent of Mexico's trade with the United States is parallel to commodities that trade between Canada and the United States.

Mexico will pay \$1.60 an hour and have access to U.S. markets. Canada pays \$12 or \$14 an hour and will lose out.

What work have you done to ensure that our wage base will be secure here in Canada?

*[Translation]*

**Some Hon. Members:** In French!

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** I wish to thank again the member from British Columbia and to congratulate him wholeheartedly for an impressive lin-