

vessel was seized and is still held in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Last Friday a United States court determined that this vessel had been illegally seized in Canadian waters. What action is the Government of Canada prepared to take to make full restitution to these fishermen for the loss of their vessel and for this illegal action by United States officials?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member said, that court decision was rendered last Friday. It involved a finding that the vessel had in fact been in Canadian waters. This country does not accept that the United States can cross the international boundary in pursuit of alleged offenders. I have instructed my officials to protest this action—

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): So that's what you need your submarines for.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): I'm not sure if the Hon. Member from the NDP is interested in the answer. I have instructed my officials to protest this action by the United States.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER DEMAND RESTITUTION FROM UNITED STATES

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister, in his protest, demand that the United States Government return the vessel immediately? It has put over six fishermen out of work for six months. Will he also ask that the United States Government drop the misdemeanor charges that have been laid against four fishermen and the captain? Will he demand that the United States Government make full financial restitution for the losses suffered by the fishermen in the last six months because of the United States' illegal action in seizing the vessel in Canadian waters?

● (1500)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly look seriously at that. I am not sure whether the best means to communicate that wish by Canada would be by way of a diplomatic protest. However, we want this matter resolved as quickly as possible. I appreciate the interest that the Hon. Member has shown both in his question and in raising the matter with my office earlier today. I want to work with him to get it resolved quickly.

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY FUNDING—USE OF FEDERAL TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Both the Ontario Federation of Students and the Council of Ontario Universities have documented a financial situation in the

universities that is so bad that the universities are reduced to using tax scams in order to make ends meet.

My question is directed to the Prime Minister because part of the problem is the failure of the provinces to pay their fair share. When and how will the Prime Minister keep his recent promise to British Columbia high school students that he will ensure that federal transfer of payments for post-secondary education are in fact used for that purpose?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is expressing the concern that the Right Hon. Prime Minister expressed, which is to ensure that we have a healthy and productive education system in this country.

We make available to the provinces a substantial amount of money, which has been increasing at a rate of approximately 6 per cent per annum. We are confident that the provinces will use that money effectively. These are questions that are the subject of discussions at federal-provincial meetings between those Ministers who are directly responsible.

I should point out that, as a result of the announcement made by the Prime Minister in January, there will be a significant increase in scholarships provided to students in areas of research and high technology. I think it is in the order of \$80 million.

Mr. Speaker: This will be the last question.

POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance seems to be operating in an unreal world. We have been hearing these promises and statements of concern for three years now.

Will this be another of those promises the Prime Minister makes because he is full of himself, or will he do something because he is full of concern? The time for him to meet the promise he has made is long past due.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member refers to promises. The Prime Minister has delivered on those promises as a result of the announcement he made back in January.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The increases in the granting councils' funding is another indication of where we have significantly increased the funds that are available to the granting councils to provide support to research.

The Hon. Member is referring to a concern here. If there is a concern, the Prime Minister indicated in British Columbia that that concern would be raised by the appropriate Minister with provincial counterparts.