S. O. 31

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the Government is asking VIA Rail, contrary to what my friend from Newfoundland has stated—

[English]

He knows very well that no decision has been made. He enumerated that a lot of routes will be abandoned. I am happy to know about that, because personally I have not received any document. VIA Rail is doing its homework, and that is good.

Mr. Tobin: Is it all VIA Rail's fault?

Mr. Bouchard (Roberval): It will have a few proposals for the Government, with recommendations. By the way, we will have the proper plan at the same time, the one by Mr. deBelleval to which the Hon. Member is referring. Mr. deBelleval is not there because he did not share the view we had. He resigned. He decided it was better to let the Government do what it had to do. My friend knows very well what I mean.

I would like to conclude by indicating that the transportation network will have to be expanded in Canada. There is no doubt about it. The Department of Transport has a budget of \$3.1 billion. I believe that Canada is a country where money is well expended in terms of transportation, but we have to put forward some corrections. That is what we will do. We want to live within the reasonableness of what we are able to pay. My friend knows very well that Newfoundland is happy today because it will have \$800 million—

Mr. Tobin: The Government of Newfoundland wants to renegotiate the deal.

Mr. Bouchard (Roberval): —for roads for the next 20 years. Newfoundlanders are happy because—

Mr. Tobin: You had better come and visit Newfoundland, my friend.

Mr. Bouchard (Roberval): —they know very well that to put money into a transportation mode which is not used any more, a mode which is not what Canadians want, would not be wise or good for the future of Canada.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being eleven o'clock, the House will now proceed to statements pursuant to Standing Order 31.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. 0. 31

[English]

FISHERIES

ATLANTIC CANADA GROUNDFISHERY

Mr. Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the House to the Government's latest bungling of fisheries management in Atlantic Canada. For almost two weeks the under 45–foot fleet of groundfishermen in Prince Edward Island were subjected to an unheard of 2,000 pound daily trip limit. How ridiculous. With a catch of 2,000 pounds fishermen were not even covering costs let alone making any money. At the beginning of May there was a glut of landings in the eastern Gulf. The quota was reduced to 12,000 pounds. Although the glut was cleared, the quota was reduced further to 2,000 pounds. Where was the logic in this drastic measure? The fish were more than plentiful, but the fishermen were not allowed to catch them.

• (1100)

Yes, the quota has been partially restored. But what about the major losses the fishermen incurred during the near two-week period? Can the Minister explain to the House and to Prince Edward Island fishermen—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his time has expired.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

FIRST WOMEN FIGHTER PILOTS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Armed Forces has its first women fighter pilots. Captains Deanna Brasseur and Jane Foster have successfully completed a seven-month basic fighter pilots' course at Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake.

The intense training course involved academics, air combat, manoeuvring tactics and weapons deployment.

Following the graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 10, Captain Brasseur will join a NATO squadron and Captain Foster will join a NORAD squadron, both in Cold Lake.