

## Oral Questions

[English]

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I am not surprised that a Liberal rises in the House to express indignation when someone talks about unemployment insurance. Those people left the Atlantic region, like Newfoundland, with an unemployment rate of 23 per cent when they left power in 1984. Today we have got the rate down to around 18 per cent. It is still too high, we want to do more and we are disgusted with those who want to encourage the defeated politicians in the Senate to try to block a bill which would provide training for our Atlantic workers so they can earn a living like everyone else.

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Beauséjour):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Prime Minister. A minister who, in addition to wanting to close down the fishing industry, insults the fishing community certainly no longer deserves their respect.

Will the Prime Minister apologize for the insulting remarks of the Minister of Fisheries—who has just repeated them, incidentally—and will he ask for the immediate resignation of that minister and appoint a new minister who will restore peace in the fishing sector instead of stirring up trouble?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to give the hon. member a copy of my Halifax statement to the people of the fishing industry.

He is trying to make the residents of the Atlantic provinces believe that the government wants to keep people on the unemployment insurance rolls. What I said in Halifax, and I do not apologize for my remarks, is that in the past and particularly under the previous administration the only option left to the people of the Atlantic provinces was to be unemployed.

Well, I know the people of the Atlantic provinces, Mr. Speaker, they are brave and they want to work.

**Mr. Robichaud:** You do not know them very well!

**Mr. Valcourt:** There he goes again, he thinks they are lazy. Mr. Speaker, members opposite seem to think that the residents of the Atlantic provinces should be quite satisfied with drawing unemployment benefits. What I said, as the royal commission of inquiry had stated in Newfoundland, is that our system has let down the people of Atlantic Canada and that we want to correct the situation but not on the backs of the fishermen!

## THE ENVIRONMENT

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. Apparently in celebration of earth day, the Minister of Energy said that Canada would have to ban cars in major cities to meet national standards for cutting air pollution. The minister of energy has rejected Canada's international commitment to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, a threat described by the Toronto conference as one greater than that of nuclear war, and rejected a report that found that every man, woman and child in Canada could save \$5,000 in energy costs while reducing emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

Will the Minister of the Environment today, following Earth Day, take this opportunity to revoke and reject those dangerous and false points of view put out by his colleague and implement now those steps that the minister knows are cost-effective and available now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Canada?

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and I had the pleasure and the honour to attend the White House conference on the environment last week. The minister of energy and I were together when I made the commitment in front of the conference that Canada would include targets and schedules to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in *The Green Plan* next fall.

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the same minister. I take it that he accepts the three statements that have been made publicly by his colleague which will not warm the hearts of the majority of Canadians.

During the celebration of Earth Day over the weekend, many British Columbians protested federal policies which allow our ports and coastal waters to be used by nuclear powered and nuclear armed vessels. Since the United States plans to use and access Back Island in Alaska, making use of Canadian waters, will the minister launch a full environmental impact assessment into the health and safety potential impacts of an accident from one of these vessels on Canadians, or does the minister