

Oral Questions

Hon. Walter McLean (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. I expect to have that report from Mr. Johnson by the end of the year. The report is on the survey he has conducted after being in touch with the post-secondary community and many of the provincial Governments, in an effort to provide a background for the ongoing discussions between the Secretary of State and the Ministers of Education. Yesterday's discussions were a first consultative step in which I was listening to the provincial and territorial Ministers of Education.

Mr. de Corneille: In other words, the draft copy and the content of that important report were not shared.

PROVINCES' USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, although he did not share the Johnson Report with the provincial Ministers yesterday, did he get a commitment from the provinces to the effect that they will not divert federal funds from their intended purpose of supporting post-secondary education, into other areas? Did he get a commitment from the provinces that they would use those federal funds for the purpose of post-secondary education?

Hon. Walter McLean (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the context of the conversation between Ministers responsible concerned looking to the future and determining the priorities of the provincial Governments and the federal Government.

As the Hon. Member knows, in the next year and a half there will have to be a renewal of the agreement with the federal Government with respect to the timetable. This is in the context of the Government's commitment to consult with the provinces about their priorities, as well as to let the provinces understand the federal priorities with regard to post-secondary institutions.

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SMALL BUSINESS

PROTECTION AGAINST UNFAIR COMPETITION

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Small Businesses). The Minister will be aware that, with the changeover from FIRA to Investment Canada, the Government has eliminated the review of acquisitions of small businesses by foreign investors, and also eliminated the controls and nature of new businesses created by foreign investors. Will the Minister tell the House, and Canada's small business community, what plans he has to protect already financially strapped small businesses from excessive and potentially unfair competition by well financed foreign interests, especially the large U.S. based franchises?

[Translation]

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Small Businesses)): Mr. Speaker, Canada's small business community is now experiencing recovery. Soon we will begin a period of consultations to reconsider the funding of small businesses and, after those consultations, we will take appropriate steps to ensure that small businesses continue to grow and provide jobs for Canadians.

[English]

REINVESTMENT OF PROFITS

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, does the Minister not agree that the substantial increase in the percentage of Canadian ownership of small business since 1971 guarantees greater reinvestment of the profits in Canada as opposed to foreign economies? Will he indicate what plans he has to ensure that the profits made in Canada by foreign companies will be reinvested here where they belong?

[Translation]

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Small Businesses)): Mr. Speaker, foreign investments in Canada will not reduce the number of jobs in this country. As I said, they will be a boon to Canadian businesses, and Investment Canada will see to it that the money is reinvested in Canada and creates jobs.

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[English]

FISHERIES

HERRING ROE INDUSTRY

Mr. Gerald Comeau (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The herring roe industry in Atlantic Canada has now become a multimillion dollar export sales industry. Would the Minister instruct his officials to study the problem of waste disposal that was ignored by the previous administration, and report on solutions that may be implemented in the 1985 season? Would he instruct his officials to consider developing markets for the by-products so that the industry can gear up to freeze or salt the herring by-products?

Hon. John A. Fraser (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for South West Nova for raising a matter which needs to be raised and was not dealt with by the former administration. The Hon. Member is absolutely right, that during the herring roe catch last year vast quantities of herring were spoiled. They were not reduced to meal because the machinery was unavailable. Consequently there was a high protein loss.

I have instructed my officials to look into the matter. I can tell the Member that this entire matter will be discussed in January with the industry advisory committee. I thank him for raising it.