that are being sold. I believe the transfers of technology have been and will continue to be a useful way to increase the number of sales and, therefore, of Canadian jobs created.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Mr. Speaker: May I call to the attention of the House the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of a distinguished delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany. The Chairman is Dr. Vogel, Leader of the SPD opposition in the Bundestag, accompanied by Mr. Stokke, and Mr. Voigt, members of the Social Democratic Party.

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FINANCE

CORPORATE TAX INCENTIVES

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In 1979, the last year for which figures are available, the tax expenditure account indicated that tax breaks to business cost $6 billion in lost tax revenue. How much did this corporate welfare account cost us in 1983? How many jobs were created as a result of the lost tax revenue being given to the major corporate sector in this country during the last year?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not have ready at hand the amount represented by the tax expenditure in 1983, but I will inquire with my officials and find out whether we can at least give the Hon. Member an approximate figure.

As to the number of jobs created, my hon. friend should recognize that incentives given to the business sector, the private sector generally—small, medium and large businesses—are given in order to help that sector compete with the rest of the world. Canada has been a large exporter during the recession. In spite of the tough recession, the deep recession that there was around the world, we have been able to compete and a good part of this was certainly due to the fact that we have been able to keep our firms going and able to meet the competition by having costs that are not too high.

The number of jobs created by such incentives obviously is not quantifiable in exact numbers. My friend should realize that the way to create jobs is certainly not by making firms bankrupt, closing down firms, making sure that they are not making any profit—that is the best way not only to bankrupt the firms but to bankrupt the total economy. If my friend wants to create jobs he must realize that we must have a private sector that is dynamic.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, surely the Minister recognizes that, almost without exception, studies that have been done on the effect of tax concessions to major corporations bear out what the two most recent reports have said, the one by Richard Bird of the University of Toronto and the one by Douglas May of Memorial University, that in fact we get little if any benefit in terms of job creation from the moneys passed through the federal treasury to the major corporate sector in Canada. I want to ask the Minister when it became acceptable to tax average Canadians and to take the money and hand it over to corporations, which results in less employment in Canada and therefore in a much higher cost to average Canadians in terms of their tax burden.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should be reminded that the taxes paid by Canadians are paid by individuals in the form of personal income tax and indirect taxes, and are also paid by corporations. The total amount is the one that appears in the books that are tabled with the Budgets and which spell out exactly how much is being collected by Governments.

At the same time, my hon. friend should realize that we have to remain competitive with the rest of the world. If the corporate sector in Canada is not in a position to compete with the American tax sector, for instance, we will not have any firms operating in this country. They will go under and be beaten by the competition.

Mr. Nielsen: Or by Revenue Canada.

Mr. Lalonde: The experience of practically every single industrialized country in the world is that you need a certain number of direct grants and a certain quantity of tax incentives to firms. I invite my friend to look even at social democratic countries in Europe, such as France, Germany, et cetera, and he will find that there are large tax expenditures programs in favour of the private sector.

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary to a previous question. The Hon. Member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Miller).

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● (1440)

FISHERIES

FUNDING SOUGHT FOR WEST COAST SALMON FISHERY

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. The estimates for stocks for this coming fishing season do not indicate that the Government has managed the stocks all that well, particularly in terms of habitat. There are only 35,000 metric tonnes expected this year. In view of the fact there is a lower expectation of stocks, with area licensing, a possible buy back program, all leading to higher unemployment in the fishing industry in British Columbia, will the Minister make a