

The position of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency is very clear. It has been allotted \$1.5 billion in new money to be spent over the next five years to encourage business development and job creation in Atlantic Canada. It will not be used on infrastructure. It will not be used to clean out Halifax Harbour or to make St. John's Harbour odour free.

Mr. Tobin: Why, are you leaving town?

Mr. Crosbie: It will not even be used to make the hon. gentleman odour free. There are not sufficient funds to do that.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Angus: That answer stinks.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I am tempted to say that the only way to make St. John's Harbour odour free is to have the Hon. Member move out, but I will not say that because I would be responding in kind.

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PRESIDENT

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rick Des Brisay, President of the Atlantic Provinces Chamber of Commerce, reports that based on a survey of the business community in Atlantic Canada 74 per cent of that business community rates the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency as only fair to poor in dealing with regional development. The so-called rumour to which the Minister refers has spread right across the business community of Atlantic Canada.

Does the Minister realize, as he should, being the very bright boy that he is on occasion, at least with his Gillette-like tongue, that the shell-game that he and the Prime Minister are playing with regional development money in Atlantic Canada is further deteriorating the confidence of the business community in a region where unemployment is already too high? Can he give me a straight answer without going crazy with his Platonian tongue?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member would need a lawn mower to get the fur off his tongue.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: I am disappointed in Mr. Des Brisay's comments. Mr. Des Brisay is constantly making critical comments about the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. It is time for him to give that agency a chance. Its success will depend upon the initiatives of Atlantic Canadians because the decisions will be made in Atlantic Canada. The money is available but they must come forward with suggestions on how to expand their businesses and create new businesses.

Oral Questions

Local initiative is required. If the local initiative is there, it will be a huge success. If it is not, it will be a failure. It is up to the people of Atlantic Canada to take advantage of it.

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● (1500)

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—EFFECT ON WATER RESOURCES

Mr. David Daubney (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. Opponents of free trade have raised the spectre of Canadian water being siphoned off to the United States as a result of the bilateral trade agreement. Will the Minister advise the House of the Government's response to this concern?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the subject of water has never been negotiated in the free trade talks. The subject of water is not part of the free trade agreement, nor will it be.

Earlier today the Deputy Prime Minister tabled in the House of Commons a federal water policy which makes very clear the federal Government's opposition to large-scale water exports to the United States or to any other country, for that matter.

We oppose such large-scale exports because, first, Canada is not a water-rich country. We need the water for our own purposes. We can ill afford to export our water for other countries' purposes.

Second, the inter-basin diversions that would be required to get the water from Canada to foreign markets would be devastating to the environment of Canada and to Canadian society, especially in the North where the ecology is so delicate and where native peoples would be particularly vulnerable.

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WINTER OLYMPICS

COMMEMORATIVE COIN PROGRAM—UNITED STATES PLAN

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport. It concerns yet another plan by the United States Government to undercut one of our programs.

The U.S. Mint has announced its plans to launch its own Olympic coin program in direct competition with ours. Does the Minister agree that this action by our so-called friends south of the border will undermine Canada's Olympic coin