

*Oral Questions*

[English]

## ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, in that one year the unemployment rate has gone up in Atlantic Canada. Will there be new money going into Atlantic Canada to reduce unemployment? Will there be new money going into the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, or is it money that already exists and goes to that region? Is it new money?

[Translation]

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, looking for new money seems to be very popular with the New Democratic Party Members today.

What I am saying is that the Government, and that is the question—yes, Mr. Leader, you asked and we are going to answer. You are asking whether the Government is going to do anything special for the Atlantic provinces. You may be anxious to bring the unemployment rate down, but we have already started, and I can give you the figures after the Question Period. Our goal is to keep up the good work.

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[English]

## SUPPLY AND SERVICES

## MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR CF-18 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. It concerns the engineering and maintenance support contract for the CF-18. Will the Minister tell the House what other considerations, other than price and the capacity for technical competence, are being evaluated by the Government in the awarding of this very important contract in the various regions of the country?

[Translation]

**Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, I can inform the House that the matter is still being considered by Treasury Board. The issue is a very complex one, and of course we intend to take into account all the factors involved. As soon as the study is completed, a decision will be made which we will be delighted to announce.

[English]

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM  
PREMIER OF NOVA SCOTIA

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I hoped that the Minister would have outlined the various considerations that Cabinet will be considering. However, in the spirit of openness and civility that the Government wishes to demonstrate, will she table in the House for the benefit of all Members, correspondence and records of

telephone calls that she has received from the Premier of Nova Scotia with regard to IMP Group Ltd.?

[Translation]

**Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that whatever that decision may be, its focus must be on Canada's industrial interests as a whole. Failure to focus on those interests would be an affront to the electorate of this country.

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[English]

## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

## SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. Given the rhetoric in the Throne Speech about water quality in Canada, why, in his recent meeting with provincial Environment Ministers, was the Minister unwilling to make a commitment on behalf of the Government to spend—I am sorry to use the phrase again—"new money" on upgrading sewage treatment facilities across Canada? Incidentally, this is something which is badly needed in the Atlantic provinces and which, if done by the Government, would increase employment in those areas? Why the lack of commitment to take that very necessary step?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Hon. Members will realize that when they put a perfectly good question there is no particular need to repeat it.

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, the premise of the Hon. Member's question is false. It is not true that I resisted overtures from my colleagues to have the federal Government assist the provinces and, through the provinces, the municipalities with municipal infrastructure. In fact the federal Government is up to its eyebrows in such support. Last year in Ontario, for example, I signed an agreement with Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment in that province, for a \$65 million subvention from the federal Treasury for municipal infrastructure support in the Great Lakes region alone. There are agreements with other provinces amounting to tens of millions of dollars. The federal Government is totally committed to helping the provinces and the municipalities in that and other ways.

## GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad that you liked the question. I do not want to ask the Minister of the Environment about what he has already done, but whether or not the Government is ever going to give the kind of massive commitment that will be needed to upgrade the sewage treatment facilities in Canada. Why was there no