

• (1410)

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words about a terrible addiction plaguing our society today: the government's addiction to secrecy.

As the Prime Minister put it in 1984:

The more the government can have of it, the more it wants of it.

In fact the government wants secrecy so bad that the Minister of Justice wants to change the fee structure for access to information, implementing some new charges and increasing existing ones.

Why? The deficit made them do it. At least that is what they say.

I have a suggestion for the minister. Why does she not put meters in the limos she and her cabinet colleagues constantly use and have waiting around the front door for them, instead of putting meters on Canadians trying to get access to government held information.?

As the Prime Minister said again in 1984:

Secrecy and stonewalling have become a habit with the government. We will never break the habit until we change the government.

He was right then. Do you know what? He is right now.

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GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks I have made a number of statements calling for more leadership in our restraint of government spending. Such restraint will take some of the pressure off monetary policy in fighting inflation and create greater potential for lower interest rates.

On this very theme I recently read with considerable interest a speech by one of our deputy ministers. I could not help but notice a reference to Public Service 2000, which is to be the first real overhaul of the Public Service in more than 20 years.

As part of this review were all members aware that if PS 2000 can streamline the process and improve public

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sector productivity by even 10 per cent, we will save something like \$1.7 billion per year just on the wage bill?

I encourage all members of this House to get behind this important initiative and call upon this government to undertake further measures to ensure the best value for Canadians' tax dollars.

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FISHERIES

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Atlantic fishery is in a crisis. We discovered yesterday that the stocks were not as good as we thought they were. Our entire region faces a devastating long-term deterioration of the fishery based economy. It is affecting hundreds of communities and tens of thousands of citizens.

I would like to remind the House that the fishery sector in Atlantic Canada is equivalent in economic terms to the auto industry in central Canada and to the grain sector on the prairies.

One aspect of this situation requires the Prime Minister's immediate personal intervention. I refer now to the discussion with the European community plus Europeans in other countries concerning their violations of internationally established quotas and their consequent destructive overfishing practices on the nose and tail of Canada's continental shelf. This issue must be resolved quickly.

Only the international stature of the Prime Minister's office will give it the priority and the high level attention necessary for such a resolution. We urge the Prime Minister to take a personal interest and to participate now in these negotiations.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to call on the Soviet Union to recognize that the demands which President Gorbachev is making of the three Baltic republics are unrealistic. It is unrealistic to expect that the Baltic republics should be treated in a way similar to other republics, that is to say that they can only secede through the law which has been set up for secession.