

cities, and many provincial ministers have very good ideas for their provincial Governments.

**Mr. Lawrence:** What has happened at the federal level?

**Mr. Lalonde:** And many federal Ministers have very good ideas on how to spend federal money in federal areas of responsibility. Each order of Government which has great ideas and wants to do things has a way of doing them. Every order of Government has a financial market available in this country from which it can borrow money, just as the federal Government has. The financial borrowing requirements of the Government, as the Hon. Member knows, are around \$26 billion to \$27 billion. That is a fair amount of borrowing in which the federal Government is engaging. I invite my hon. friend to invite his colleagues, his friends or even his enemies at the local municipal or provincial level, to do what the federal Government is doing, that is, to go out into the market and borrow to finance a lot of activities across the country. That is the responsibility of all orders of Government, not only of the federal Government.

**Mr. Epp:** Do not encourage them to borrow more.

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[Translation]

#### AIR TRANSPORT

##### ACCUSATIONS MADE IN QUEBEC PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON QUEBEC AIR SITUATION

**Mrs. Eva Côté (Rimouski-Témiscouata):** Madam Speaker, my question to the Minister of Transport refers to the allegations or rather the accusations which were made in a Quebec parliamentary commission concerning the Quebecair situation. Could the Minister of Transport advise the House of the way in which the negotiations were conducted between Nordair and Quebecair and the Quebec government in July 1981 which resulted into the plight which Quebecair faces today?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, this would require a great deal of explanations, but one thing is certain, and it is the fact that the more Mr. Clair enjoys talking about my beating about the bush, the less I enjoy talking about his conceited attitude. This government, just like the one before, has experienced much difficulty in trying to amalgamate these two corporations. In spite of their efforts my colleagues, the hon. member for Joliette and the hon. member for Végréville, have failed. In 1981, however, a concrete proposal was made to the Quebec government, which, for nationalistic reasons, was turned down. That was the situation then.

The situation now is that Mr. Clair would like me to get involved, ahead of time, in the administration of Quebecair which we are trying to get back on track. I refused to do so

#### Oral Questions

before seeing its auditor financial statements. I believe it was the only safe thing for me to do.

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[English]

#### FISHERIES

##### EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BAN ON CANADIAN SEAL PRODUCTS— REQUEST THAT FISHERIES AGREEMENT BE ABROGATED

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Now that the European Economic Community has formally banned the importation of Canadian seal products into the Community, thereby killing the Canadian seal industry and bringing hardship to Canadian fishermen and the Inuit people in the Eastern Arctic of Canada as well, does the Minister intend to recommend to his Cabinet colleagues that Canada abrogate the Canada-European Fisheries Agreement which has given little benefit to Canada? All one-way benefits have gone to the Community.

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, first let me tell the Hon. Member what I have said. The European Community has been hypocritical all along on the question of the seal hunt. Every time I meet any Minister from the European Community I have been told that their scientific community fully agrees with our scientific advisers that the hunt is well regulated and there is absolutely nothing to do.

On the substance of the issue, I think my hon. friend is wrong. Yesterday the European Community did not impose any formal ban. The Community said there will be a ban starting next October if, in the meantime, there is no agreement between Canada and Norway about a study. Canada has been proposing for years that international scientists study the whole matter. We know that our hunters, our fishermen, have nothing to fear from any inquiry not done by Brigitte Bardot and Brian Davis but by reputable scientists.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. De Bané:** On the question of the LTA with Europe, as I have said, my duty is to the Canadian fishermen, not to foreign fleets. If we give fishing allocations to foreign fleets, they will be for past performance. That was the policy I announced two weeks ago. Foreign fleets must buy Canadian fish before expecting access to Canadian waters. My colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and his Department jointly with my Department will announce a decision on the matter very shortly. I am already on record that I am not at all satisfied with the way Members of the European Community behaved last year. While they had access to Canadian fishing waters, they did not open up their country's markets to our fish. Obviously, they will have to bear the consequences of that action.