

before the bail-out was announced on March 25 and prices fell to rock bottom. On April 29, in response to my question in the House, the Minister said that he was sure the bank had complied with all provincial regulations for full and timely disclosure of shares trading. Will the Minister tell the House if he still stands by that statement?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, that is the sort of question that should be put during a committee hearing. I will not stand here and answer a question with the complexity lying behind that one. Having served for a number of years in the investment business, I know the care that must be taken in responding to that type of question. I would ask the Hon. Member to save that question for when the committee sits.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

### SMALL BUSINESS

#### MEASURES TO REDUCE RED TAPE

**Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Louis-Hébert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Small Businesses.

I would like to know whether his Department has taken steps to reduce to a minimum the number and complexity of the forms that small- and medium-sized businesses have to complete for Statistics Canada—

**An Hon. Member:** That is politicking.

**Mrs. Duplessis:** Will the Opposition side please keep quiet?

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

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the distinct feeling that there were caucus meetings this morning.

[Translation]

**Mrs. Duplessis:** There has been a notable absence of decorum since the House resumed sitting.

I would like to know whether there have been any tangible results to date, and this is further to complaints received from owners of businesses in my riding.

**Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Small Businesses)):** Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank the Hon. Member for Louis-Hébert for her very pertinent question. In February and March this year, I held national consultations and asked businessmen and my provincial counterparts a number of questions. These questions were raised with a view to achieving harmonization and a reduction in paper work in this country. We set up task forces in each province, and these

### Oral Questions

groups have started their work. We shall be seeing concrete results within the next few months.

However, the matter is fairly complex, and we cannot reduce paper work by tackling only one form at a time. A comprehensive approach is necessary.

\* \* \*

[English]

### FISHERIES

#### SALE OF CANNED TUNA—INSPECTORS' FINDINGS

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and it is a very easy one. Under federal regulations and by federal inspectors under the mandate of the Prime Minister's administration, the million cans of tuna in question here were found to be unfit for human consumption. Would the Prime Minister tell the people of Canada what the words "unfit for human consumption" mean to him?

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, let me respond to the Hon. Member. The inspectors rejected certain stock on the basis of what is called an organoleptic test. That means that they touch it, they smell it, they look at it, and they consider its texture and aesthetics.

**Ms. Copps:** It stinks.

**Mr. Fraser:** This is a task which is not easy and which is at times very subjective.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Fraser:** The plant in question was quarrelling with the judgment exercised by these inspectors. It appealed. The same inspectors sat on the judgment. They came to the Minister and asked if they could not have an independent look at this matter. The Minister gave them two committees which took an independent look at the matter, and made a ruling.

Hon. Members are so concerned with jobs, but if they keep on this way, they are going to have a delegation of workers from New Brunswick—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The answer is getting long.

### LABELLING OF CANS

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is again directed to the Prime Minister. If these million cans of tuna were sold outside Canada, then according to Canadian law each can had to have a cautionary label on it showing that it had not been approved in Canada. Again, what do the words "unfit for human consumption" mean to the Prime Minister? Why would there have to be cautionary labels put on cans sold outside Canada? Did the million cans sold inside Canada not require precisely the same thing?