

of the Prime Minister's peace mission? It is a very simple question. If he does, will he repeat that accusation outside of this House?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): We must be careful that we do not extend beyond the bounds of reflecting on other Members.

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, I interpret what the two gentlemen did last week as effectively detracting from the peace effort. That is what I said and I stand by that. I will say that outside the House.

Mr. Jarvis: Answer the question.

Mr. Simmons: I cannot affirm that the Member for York-Peel and the temporary Member for Central Nova pray. I hope they do.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, could the Member indicate to the House whether he got the \$500,000 for the Special Employment Initiatives Program, what kind of projects that money was spent on, and how the spending on those projects articulate with the themes of the Throne Speech?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Order, please. The Chair recognizes that discussions on the Throne Speech are fairly wide but, I think we are diverging a little from the subject of the Member's speech. Questions and comments ordinarily would be directed to the Member on what he has said during his speech. I will allow the Member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons) to reply.

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, any funds that come under my jurisdiction for job creation are well spent in my constituency in consultation with people in the constituency. I would suggest that before the Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes) digs too deep a hole on that particular issue he ought to ask the Hon. Member's for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) and St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) whether their ridings got such funds. He would be surprised and disappointed by the answer.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, we have been trying for some time to get the list of 844 projects so we could see whether or not that spending articulated with the themes of the Throne Speech. That is the context. I have spoken to the Members for St. John's and they did not get the same kind of funding. I guess that is part of what is bothersome. Could he just give us the thrust of it? What is happening in his riding under that porkbarrel that reflects the Throne Speech? I would appreciate an explanation of how it trickles down to a particular riding and how it fits the theme of the Throne Speech.

● (1250)

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, we are spending job-creation funds in Burin-St. George's on slipway building to help fishermen continue their work. We are spending it on senior citizen facilities and we are spending it to give youth job opportunities. I am for all those things. That is why I applied the money

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to these initiatives. The Member for Calgary West may be against them but they go over very big in my riding.

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that there was not an opportunity in the limited time available to ask the previous speaker another question. Since he mentioned the subject of fisheries, I would have liked to ask him why the present Government which holds a majority in this Parliament is not prepared to discuss this issue in a meaningful way with fishermen and talk about solutions or make suggestions regarding the problems in the West Coast fishery.

At this point I suggest we could reflect upon one of the most colossal failures in the history of the West Coast fishing industry. That failure was the implementation by Jack Davis of a fishing fleet limitation program. At that time Members of Parliament continually requested consultations with the Minister to give an opportunity to various user groups to provide input into a more acceptable solution. I suggest that even Members of the Government would be hard pressed to say that the Davis plan was not a complete and total failure which left the industry in worse shape than it was when he appeared. Unfortunately, the greatest failure was that Davis and the Liberal Government of the day did not enter into meaningful consultations or attempt to achieve a consensus on an appropriate way of limiting that fleet and managing the West Coast fishery.

I would have asked the member why we are faced with the same situation today. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. De Bané) is making proposals that would essentially run fishermen, the fishing industry and those who work in it as well as the communities on the West Coast into a deeper and more difficult situation than they face today. Knowing the fairness of the previous speaker, I know he would have been there to help us obtain a commitment from the Minister and the Government to provide an opportunity for meaningful consultation and some consensus on how to proceed with this very important issue. Unfortunately, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has not given any indication that he will subscribe to that proposal. My colleagues and I fear that we may find that the situation which was created by Jack Davis will be compounded even more.

There are many other issues I would like to deal with in the brief time that I have available that are related to the West Coast fishing industry. Perhaps during the question period after my speech some of those ideas can be developed.

First, I wish to speak about the most pressing proposal that seems to be before us today. I am sure that every Member of Parliament, every Senator and those in the bureaucracy are aware that there are 120 fishermen from the West Coast who have spent thousands of dollars from their own pockets to come here to represent businesses, individuals in the communities and the industry in which they work. In short, these 120 people represent a large population.

I cannot impress enough upon Members how important it is for them to be available to listen to those people, who will be