

Our fishermen are serious and our communities are serious about what is happening out there. If the government is not going to take more action, then it seems to say to the rest of the world that we are not interested. I cannot believe that we are not interested. I know that the minister has recounted all the times that she has spoken, or the Prime Minister has spoken, but we have to see some real effort right now.

The season is upon us, and the reality is the potential of 8,000 jobs immediately in the Newfoundland area and the spin-off in other areas.

I ask the minister two or three simple questions and I will start them in this way. First, this week *The Globe and Mail* carried an ad that I think was false. I would like to know how she, as minister of external affairs, can have our national daily carry an ad that is not disputed by this Government of Canada.

We know that the herd has to be culled. I am sad to say that it is growing. We know that the herd eats too much fish, and it is not just cod, it is the whole stock out there. It is the amount of fish that seals eat. Why has the government, the day after or by this weekend, not taken a responsible position and placed an ad to counteract that terrible ad that we saw in the papers this week? On the east coast, we think we are defeated before we ever get started with this government.

The second thing I want to ask is this. Why have we not ratified the Law of the Sea? It was 1977 when we signed it. I know the U.S. will not sign it. I know why it will not sign it and I know why it does not want to sign it, because their big business and their multinationals do not want to be over-regulated by a Republican government, that is Reagan and now Bush.

There is no reason why we have not signed it and shown that we believe in what is in the Law of the Sea. I think that there is no reason why we cannot put more effort into this. I belong to parliamentary delegations. I have not been asked to go over and meet with the U.S., or the EEC, or France or the Commonwealth to get support from our own colleagues in Parliaments and try to overcome this burden.

Would the minister please give me an answer?

### Supply

**Mrs. McDougall:** Mr. Speaker, let me deal with the last part of the question first.

As minister, as the hon. member well knows, I am not responsible for parliamentary delegations. They have to be approved in this House for money. That is not a government activity. That is a House activity. Let me say as well that I would be very happy if the hon. member would like to put together a parliamentary delegation and then we can discuss it. I have never been presented with a request for a parliamentary delegation.

Let me also say that on the Law of the Sea convention, which we did sign in 1977, needs strong multilateral support. We live by the Law of the Sea convention and we tailor our activities accordingly, but if it is just ourselves ratifying it, it is not going to have any impact on this problem. What is going to have an impact on this problem is exactly the kind of actions that we are taking and that we are taking in Europe.

When the member says we have not pursued this vigorously, I can assure her that we have brought our relationship with the European Community to a state of some considerable tension as a result of the vigour with which we have pursued this problem.

**Mr. Mills:** They don't know what the problem is.

**Mrs. McDougall:** We have pursued it both at the level of the commission and at the political level.

In Ambassador Gherson's latest trip to Europe, when he presented them with the data, yes, he did not get a warm reception. It was quite the reverse. He got a very cool reception at first, but once people started to look at the data, they are paying closer attention.

This is the kind of thing that has taken us a long time to get to, but it is worth every minute that we have spent and all the energy that we are putting into it. We have done this at some considerable cost to the other issues we are dealing with in Europe because it has led to strains in our relationship with the community at both the political level and particularly with the EC commission, to say nothing of our relationship with Spain and Portugal. That is all the more reason to pursue this.

In my view, the only thing that is going to have an impact on their—I think the hon. member might listen to my answer instead of talking to her neighbour.

**Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova):** I am listening.