

rules of the free trade agreement, is wrong when he says that.

We have taken actions under the free trade agreement to protect our rights. We have to respect the fact that the U.S. may want to as well.

On this particular issue we fundamentally disagree and we are going to make that point known. We will take every action possible to ensure that we protect our position on that.

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FISHERIES

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Yesterday's pathetic spectacle of the minister's disembodied voice spewing some sweet assurance to the fishermen, while in the comfort of his flying machine he flitted around in circles above—

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment. I am sure the hon. member would like to put his question.

Mr. Simmons: I say that spectacle won the point better than he knows. Jobs are being lost, fish stocks are being ravaged while the chicken goes around in circles with its head cut off.

What fishermen need from this minister is more than just lip service, they need some indication, some proof from him that he is not afraid in and out of cabinet to advocate the only way out of this dilemma, the takeover of the management of those straddling stocks.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I went 1,500 miles to show my support for our Newfoundland fishermen and for our flotilla.

A week ago last Thursday the hon. gentleman would not go 500 yards to show his support at the standing committee on fisheries when the meeting was called to deal with this very issue. The hon. gentleman and none of his colleagues were there. I will go 1,500 miles and you will not even go 1,500 yards to show your support.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Oral Questions

Mr. Crosbie: With respect to what we were doing, I want to congratulate Atlantic Airways, the provincial airline that is supplying the service that gives us the best surveillance and enforcement system in the world in the northwest Atlantic. It is a superb service which I checked out yesterday and can verify myself.

I flew over 12 Spanish ships, two Canadian patrol vessels, one European Community patrol vessel, one Coast Guard vessel and seven Canadian vessels in the flotilla and passed on to them our best wishes and our unremitting efforts to help them in the struggle to establish a proper conservation policy.

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, what he did not mention was that the plane allowed him to avoid taking the boat and his Graval pills.

• (1440)

If he is talking about miles and yards, when will he go the few hundred feet from his bench to the cabinet room and sell the idea of a takeover of the management of stocks because only today the European fisheries commissioner says that only a trifling amount of fish is involved; that he doubts Canada's sincerity very much.

Is this not proof that the minister's message is not getting through to Mr. Marin or to the gentleman who looks after constitutional affairs sometimes? Is it not true that the minister is not getting his message through and that his campaign of information is a flop? Is it not time to focus on this issue so we can get on to his other disasters, his mismanagement and give—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, I usually have to take my Graval pills when I watch the hon. gentleman opposite ask questions. That is when.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Well, it is getting awfully hard to help. Perhaps the minister could answer the question.

Mr. Crosbie: With respect to what we are doing, today, for example, we are supporting and have made preparations for Premier Wells to visit the UNCED conference in New York to help pursue our resolution on the straddling stocks. We are prepared to work with anyone who is prepared to work with us.