

Oral Questions

Fishermen are upset everywhere because of low quotas for Canadian fishermen off the east coast of Canada, while foreign nations are having a field day both outside and inside the 200-mile zone.

I want to ask the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans why this government negotiated a few weeks ago quotas for next year, for 1992, in zone 3NO where all of this dispute is taking place, inside and outside the 200-mile zone, 6,000 tonnes of cod for Canada, 7,200 tonnes for foreign nations, 1,600 tonnes to the U.S.S.R., all within the 200-mile zone.

Why does this government continue to infuriate fishermen with this preference for foreign fishing fleets?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will not and cannot enter into debate with the hon. member on all the things he said.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Valcourt: Let me advise the House, I mean those who are interested in fishermen, that as we speak officials of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are meeting with the fishermen in Newfoundland to try to solve the problem that the member just outlined.

Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls): Mr. Speaker, last night—and this is typical of what really infuriates Canadian fishermen—another Canadian boat was arrested, six crew members aboard, by the warship *Margaree*, 240 crew, and a fisheries patrol vessel. The Canadian skipper was arrested as he was between two Spanish purse seine fishing boats. The Spanish boats were not boarded—this is inside the 200-mile zone—and the Canadian boat had a measly 200 pounds of cod aboard that was being used for bait.

Our fishermen want to know why these foreign boats are not being boarded. What does the government think the Spanish boats were doing? They certainly were not catching a sun-tan.

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Another Liberal who talks about deportation.

Mr. Speaker, I have just indicated to the hon. member that officials of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans

are working right now with the fishermen in Newfoundland to try to address their concern. I think instead of just throwing oil on the fire the hon. member, maybe for a first, could come up with a positive suggestion to help the fishermen and stop just gabbling at it.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Recently the minister's message to the executive of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees stated that there is need for a better protection of the neediest refugees such as women and children who are the majority of the 18 million, some of them needing resettlement in countries like Canada.

However, since 1988, under Canada's program *Women at Risk* which has no ceiling, this government has landed only 32 cases of mother-led families per year.

• (1450)

My question for the minister is: Will he undertake to follow his own good advice by bringing in at least 100 women at risk this year?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I hope that the hon. member is not criticizing Canada and the refugee determination process that the government has put in place. Canada's reputation in the world is one that is envied. We are as a government and we are as a country doing our share.

I met recently with the UNHCR representative in Canada who is lauding Canada's collaboration and cooperation with the UNHCR, and we are going to continue in that direction.

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question was not about the determination process in Canada, as the minister would prefer to think. My question is about our overseas program in which the government has announced that it will only bring in half as many refugees this year as the measly 13,000 that it has promised for the last four years.