

Oral Questions

Will the minister give a commitment? He is talking in fairly positive terms. Can he be specific and give a commitment to the fishermen and plant workers that as a consequence of this new dialogue with Mr. Delors, the foreign overfishing will be eliminated in the foreseeable future? If he cannot give that commitment, there will be no future for those plant workers and those fishermen.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that is certainly our objective and that is certainly the position that we are putting to the Europeans in trying to get them to respect reasonable international regulation of fishing. We have made some progress on the matter.

I point out to the hon. member that developments that led to the movement of Spanish and Portuguese fleets into waters where they had not been before were not developments that occurred in Canada. They had to do with the decision of those countries to join the European Community and some of the consequences of that decision. I also want to make the point that one of the very positive decisions that was taken by this government was to stop the Liberal giveaway of 9,500 tonnes of fish.

* * *

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for youth. In the minister's absence, I will ask the question of the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The question concerns the future of this country, and in particular Canadian youth. It has been reported that this government will cut summer employment programs for students by almost 50 per cent. As the minister knows students' fees and costs have increased. How can the minister justify this action and block the major artery to Canada's future?

• (1440)

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that the components of the Challenge program and its objectives are reviewed every year. The minister of state for youth and myself, and other members of this government, have been focusing on and have been very sensitive to a specific problem and that is the problem of high school dropouts.

As a result of that, the work orientation component, which is a program designed to address that particular problem, was increased by \$8 million over 1988. When the minister of youth returns, he will have a definitive statement on the whole Challenge program for this year.

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if she can confirm or deny that this government plans to reduce the SEED program by approximately 43 per cent and funds allocated to the CECS by 30 per cent.

If that is true, how can the minister morally justify it? The students of this country would like an honest answer.

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think the honest answer is that the unemployment among youth has gone down very significantly under this government, and is certainly much lower than it was under his government.

I would also like to point out that the kinds of training programs that we have for young people are much more effective in terms of their skill development and their ability to get jobs. With the government focusing on the high school dropout rate which is very significant, particularly in Atlantic Canada, the hon. member should be applauding.

* * *

PRESENCE IN GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of hon. members the presence in the Gallery of a delegation to the Seventh Canada-Mexico Joint Ministerial Committee Meeting, including the Mexican Secretaries of Foreign Relations, Commerce, Tourism, Urban Development and the Attorney General.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

FISHERIES

Mr. David D. Stupich (Nanaimo—Cowichan): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries.

In 1989, Canada's quota for North Atlantic cod was set at 225,000 tonnes, almost double what was recommended by Canadian scientists.

For 1990, Canada's quota has been set at 197,000 tonnes, 1.6 times the level recommended by our scientists. In the name of sustainable development of our cod