

within the Canadian Jobs Strategy, the ability to train women now to take advantage of upcoming opportunities.

Free trade, like any other economic condition, is not a static thing. It is going to grow, and it will be positive for women. It will be positive for women in terms of both the manufacturing sector and the service sector.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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● (1150)

FISHERIES

CANADA-FRANCE DISPUTE—REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT NOT PURCHASE FRENCH NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I want to go to the Secretary of State for External Affairs who will know that this latest incident is not the only time the French have pushed Canadians around. He will be aware that the French have been overfishing in our east coast waters; they have insulted our Head of State and they have been harassing and hassling Canadian tourists visiting France. The most recent incident was to stop one of our vessels fishing in waters where they have traditionally fished for many years.

Why doesn't the Secretary of State for External Affairs stand up in the House and say that the Government of Canada is now prepared to send a very clear signal to the French Government, that Canada is not prepared to accept being pushed around time and time again? He should tell the French that we are not interested as a Government of Canada in purchasing any submarines from them. Get tough.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have already done that. We have already made very clear to the Government of France the determination of this Government to protect the interests of Canadians. Among the ways we protect the interests of Canadians as a Government is not to engage in casual trade wars.

What the Member of Parliament is doing now on behalf of the New Democratic Party is suggesting that we should put at risk jobs in Vancouver, jobs in St. John's, jobs in Halifax, jobs in Toronto, jobs in Hamilton—

Mr. Tobin: Damn right we are!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): —jobs across this country of people who now are engaged in contracts to France or people who might become engaged in contracts to France.

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): There is no reason at this stage for us to contemplate that. We are being very tough and very consistent on the fishing question.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Hon. Minister that standing up for Canada means taking some risks sometimes. It is time we started standing up for Canadians in Newfoundland. How many times does the Minister have to be poked and prodded until he realizes that somebody is trying to hurt him?

Mr. Speaker: I ask the Hon. Member to put his question.

Mr. Riis: When you poke away at a grizzly bear long enough, eventually he will start fighting back, Mr. Speaker. I think we have been pushed around too long by the French. It is time for the Minister to stand up now and say that we are prepared to send a very clear signal: "Unless you back off and back off now, we are not interested in negotiating this nuclear submarine contract at all".

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have sent a very clear message to the French.

Ms. Copps: A smoke signal.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): We have sent a clear message in the protest. We have done that in the suspension of the discussions on mediation. We do not want to make the fishermen of Newfoundland or people working in factories across this country the victims of some political process of the New Democratic or the Liberal Parties.

We are in the present situation because a treaty was signed in 1972 by the Liberal Government that defines certain waters as being French waters. That situation was established then and it cannot suddenly be ignored.

Mr. Riis: Stand up.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): As for standing up for Canada, Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity, because I have been challenged before to stand up for Canada. I have been challenged in this House to stand up on issues, and I think any objective reading would say that when I have been called upon to stand up for Canada, I have stood up for Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!