

The point that the Hon. Member raises is the over-fishing beyond Canada's economic jurisdiction on the common property stocks of the Grand Banks. That overfishing is being pursued by the European nations, especially Spain and Portugal, contrary to the rules of the International Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization which sets the quotas and administers these stocks. Canada deeply regrets this outrageous abuse of these resources.

This very day I am meeting with the Atlantic Fisheries Ministers to decide how we might escalate the initiatives we have set out under a plan to end this flagrant violation of all good conservation principles. We expect to take further actions, over and above those which we have taken to deny port privileges and quotas in Canadian waters, to end this wasteful abuse of our fish resources.

ALCOHOL TARIFFS

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Grand Falls): Mr. Speaker, of course I can distinguish between the nose and the tail. I wish to tell the Hon. Minister that the EEC is pillaging our fishery on the nose of the Grand Banks, and they allow the U.S. to fish unchecked on the tail of the Grand Banks, so we are getting it at both ends.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker: I want to ask the Minister the following question. Does the Government not realize that Canada has lost respect internationally because we do not have the will to protect our fishing resources?

Will the Government today instruct the negotiators who are meeting with the EEC this afternoon on wine, beer, and spirits to tell the EEC that we will talk about tariffs on their booze when they cut their quotas on our fish?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows full well the consequences of linking a fisheries management issue with another trade issue.

The Hon. Member also knows full well that the Government has taken strong measures to end the European abuse of our fish stocks within the Canadian 200-mile zone, but the fish stocks in question are beyond Canada's sovereign jurisdiction from a management perspective.

The Hon. Member knows that we have denied port privileges, we have ended over the side sales, and we

Oral Questions

have denied any quotas of any fish in Canadian waters to these wayward European nations, and we will continue to raise the pressure in order to end these very regrettable practices by the European Community.

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AGRICULTURE

DROUGHT AID PROGRAM

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister will recall that only 10 days before the election date the Government announced a drought aid program for farmers which was supposed to top up crop insurance by 10 per cent, and cost the Government some \$850 million.

Since the Government's delay in making that announcement was supposed to have been in order to make certain that the program would be ready to implement immediately, can the Minister explain why at this date there is still no program, why the drought zones have not been defined, and why the provincial Premiers on the Prairies are now being asked to contribute money to the program, money which was supposed to have already been committed by the federal Government?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I regret that the Hon. Member takes exception to the fact that we have announced a program to support the farmers in a serious drought situation.

Our record of support for the farmers, whether it was for drought, grasshoppers, depressed prices, you-name-it, has been pretty good; in fact, second to none.

We have made the commitment and we will deliver.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is the following. Given that prairie Conservatives who were defeated by the farmers on the Prairies have been stating after their defeat that this means that the region will no longer get any money, can the Minister tell us whether that is in fact his Government's policy? If so, is this the reason why it has not provided the drought program to the dried out prairie farmers as promised during the election?