

The hon. gentleman should get to his feet, be honest for a change and congratulate the government for what it has done to assist fishermen.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would ask hon. members to refrain from making comments that put the Speaker in a position of having to perhaps judge them as unparliamentary.

**Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, the minister knows that no amount of double-talk can hide the truth, which is that he lost the battle in cabinet—

**Mr. Speaker:** Just a moment. I am trying to do the best I can with both the hon. member and the minister. I am going to need a little help from both of them. The hon. member will put his question.

**Mr. Simmons:** Why will the minister not admit that he lost the battle in cabinet on this one? He and his colleagues from Atlantic Canada were snowballed.

Now that the Prime Minister has had a change of heart and admitted yesterday that those fishermen and plant workers need a bit more attention, will he get together with the Prime Minister. More specifically, is he now prepared to go back to cabinet with a proposal for increased funding to those people who are in real need down there, including his own riding, so that they will get the kind of dollars they deserve to see them through this winter.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency):** Mr. Speaker, I hope that the hon. gentleman—by the way, I want to help the Speaker all I can. With the group that the hon. Speaker is dealing with, he needs all the help he can get.

I hope the hon. gentleman opposite will be supporting my new proposals for reform in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans so we can get rid of the minutia of giving out licences and making allocations and deciding whether John Brown should have a licence or John Smith should have a licence and help us to spend all our time devising schemes for getting more money out of the rest of the government.

### *Oral Questions*

#### UKRAINE

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Last August in Edmonton the Prime Minister said and I quote:

Canada pledges to respect the free and democratically expressed wishes of the Ukrainian people, whatever that decision might be.

We now have the secretary of state saying something quite different and attaching a series of conditions to Canada's recognition of Ukraine.

I want to ask the minister why the government is now renegeing on the commitment made by the Prime Minister last August?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no question of renegeing on any commitment that was made.

First of all, we have an historic referendum coming up this weekend that I think Canadians from all backgrounds will welcome.

Second, the Prime Minister made a commitment that we would respect the democratic process. That remains the commitment of the government and that is exactly what we will do.

What we have said is that there are obligations of all nations to sign on to certain principles, including nuclear disarmament through the treaties that have been signed, including conventional forces Europe. The Prime Minister has said that in interviews and so have I. The democratic process will be respected and we are looking forward to seeing the results of what will be a very important day on Sunday.

• (1450)

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Madam Speaker, this morning in front of the external affairs committee, the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Russia Federation said that there have been communiqués and agreements already signed between the President of the Russian Federation and Mr. Kravchuk from Ukraine, which explicitly set out that there will be joint control of nuclear weapons, and Ukraine will control all the arms control agreements.