

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## TRANSBOUNDARY FISH STOCKS DISPUTE

**Hon. Roger E. Simmons (Burin—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It relates to last week's establishment of a working committee between the European Community and the Government to deal with the dispute relating to the transboundary fish stocks off Newfoundland.

The Minister will be aware that his colleague, the Minister for International Trade, has already publicly stated that he does not hold out much hope that the foreign fleets can be convinced not to continue overfishing. He has also dismissed the idea of extending jurisdiction to include the nose and tail of the Grand Banks.

Has the Government already thrown in the towel on the whole issue, or is it just diverting attention while it proceeds to cave in to the European Community as it has already done to France in relation to the 3PS fish issue?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, none of the above. What was signed and agreed to in Brussels is an important step forward in terms of process. The Vice-President of the European Community, on behalf of the commission, agreed with Canada to establish a process that would be based upon two very important principles: one being the conservation of the stocks and the other being the principle of rational management.

The case that Canada has been making to the Europeans, to the Community; making bilaterally when the Prime Minister met with the Prime Minister of Spain and the Prime Minister of Portugal; and has been making generally is that if current European overfishing practices continue, there will be no fish left for Canadians, no fish left for Europeans. It is consequently important for us to have the Europeans accept the principle of conservation as a basis of this discussion. That is what has occurred.

## Oral Questions

## FISHERIES

## SPECIAL CONTINGENCY PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. William Rompkey (Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. In *Hansard* on May 16, in answer to a request by the Hon. Member for Burin—St. George's for a special contingency program for the east coast fishery, the Minister said:

I will undertake to appear before the Standing Committee next week and describe in detail the plans which he has asked me to enumerate.

It was a special contingency plan. Yet the Minister came before the committee on May 30 and said: "Business as usual. There will be no special relief plan".

Why did he mislead the House and the fishermen and plant workers of Atlantic Canada? Why does the Government not have a special relief program for Atlantic Canada as it did for farmers in the Prairies and auto workers in Ontario? Why will he not stand up and commit himself to an income support program for Atlantic Canada?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, first, the plans that I spoke of related to the direction of the question asked by the Hon. Member who asked the previous question, with respect to matters within my jurisdiction as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, dealing with quotas, with enforcement measures, and with the management of the fishery.

I did indeed appear before the committee and attempt to describe those plans in detail but for the insistent interruptions of opposition Members who were more inclined to make speeches than to listen to my detailed response.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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## HEALTH

## NATIONAL STRATEGY ON AIDS

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It deals with the AIDS situation. Yesterday he