

the new tax. By dropping the rate from 9 per cent to 7 per cent, we have addressed those concerns about transition and addressed them in a very forthright way.

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ATLANTIC FISHERY

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Last night during our emergency debate on the fishery, the member for St. John's West promised that he would resign if no help was forthcoming for the Atlantic fishery.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: It is a great idea. With the devastating news this morning that European community fisheries ministers have set a 60,000 metric tonne cod quota for themselves off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, a quota four times higher than that recommended by Canada, I would expect that the member for St. John's West should start packing his desk right now.

Will the Prime Minister now finally admit that his policy of appeasement in the face of confrontation over our fishery has failed utterly? Will he agree to extend unilaterally our fisheries jurisdiction to the nose and tail of the Grand Banks and to use whatever means are necessary to enforce that jurisdiction and to put an end to the piracy of the fishery off Canada's east coast?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. members: Resign, resign!

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. members: Goodbye, John.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, news of my resignation is indeed premature.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: The government has introduced programs described yesterday in connection with the fishery and will be introducing others.

With reference to the hon. member's main question, which is a very serious one, we can only say with respect

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to the European community's decision of yesterday that we are extremely disappointed. The decision they made was a considerable improvement over their decisions in previous years.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: I remind the House that they assigned themselves quotas of 132,290 tonnes of fish in 1989, whereas they are at least reducing that to 56,250 tonnes this year.

Mr. Tobin: It is 60,000 tonnes.

Mr. Crosbie: Nevertheless, that is in excess of the 15,377 tonnes they were assigned by NAFO, by three times. It is regrettable, but we never indicated in the House that we would have complete success this year. We intend to continue with our campaign because we believe that with time and with pressure the European community, led by Commissioner Marin who is trying to make an improvement here, will come to see that it must observe the NAFO quotas and do it in short order.

• (1440)

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, just so the House understands the absolute anger and frustration that anybody who knows anything about the east coast fishery is feeling upon hearing that answer, the European community has set a quota for itself of 60,000 metric tons when it was assigned by Canada and by NAFO only 15,000 metric tons.

It has done so in the face of Canada reducing its own quota over the last two years by 100,000 tonnes, and it has done so at a time when the European community has reduced quotas along its own coastal waters for conservation efforts but has come to Canada to pillage our resource.

My question is for the Prime Minister. I want to tell the Prime Minister that the reason we are consistently abused is this government and that this Prime Minister is regarded as an international wimp in the world community.

Some hon. members: Sit down, sit down!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Tobin: I have not finished the question.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, needless to say, the interperativeness of the question indicates that the hon. gentle-