

Mr. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): I certainly share my colleague's suspicion on this question. I think one way of illustrating the contrast in the commitment to the issue would be to play back the speech of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the speech of the Secretary of State for External Affairs back-to-back. You would see that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, because he comes from an area that is vitally affected by this crisis, is committed and serious about doing something about it.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, perhaps because her constituents are not as directly affected immediately by the problem or perhaps it is some other reason, obviously by the tone of her voice and by her expression here today, does not exude in her body language a deep and abiding commitment and determination to solving this problem. Perhaps we are misreading her. I guess we will have to wait and see what happens.

I am afraid that the fishermen in eastern Canada and the fish stocks themselves cannot wait much longer. They are being plundered and the livelihood of a whole part of the country is disappearing while we wait for this government to sort itself out and to sort its priorities and we wait for the Secretary of State for External Affairs who seems lackadaisical in her approach to this very serious issue.

I do not like to accuse anyone of being insincere, but it is awfully tempting when you see the behaviour we just witnessed a few minutes ago.

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, I would have to agree with my colleagues on the lack of interest. I would say that the minister of fisheries should bring them back a big dose of cod liver oil and it might get them all moving and doing some action. However, we do not seem to have any energizer over there and that minister of fisheries has gone down instead of going up so he needs a dose of cod liver oil as well. Cod liver oil might give him the force or the energy.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Robitaille: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member for Terrebonne on a point of order.

Supply

Mr. Robitaille: Mr. Speaker, I would just remind you, this House and the hon. member that we do not need to dance on the desks and shout as they do to show some interest in the subject. Just because we keep cool, Mr. Speaker, does not mean—

[*English*]

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, my good friend from Quebec, who normally exhibits an awful lot of good horse sense, good common sense, has really missed the point here.

His minister, his colleague, has badly upset us by coming into this House and mocking an important issue. That does not sit very lightly with me. Better she had not come in than to come in to pay lip-service to an issue she either does not understand or does not believe in.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I think that we express opinions on all sides of the House. It is a matter of opinion and I think that it would be good to return to the substance of the debate according to our rules. I again recognize the hon. member for South West Nova.

[*English*]

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): Whatever they need, they need a new battery change and they need some energizers over there.

An hon. member: They are out of gas.

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): They are out of gas. They are out of steam and they are out of any type of power.

We have seen here this week representatives of the communities from Newfoundland and the representatives of the fishing efforts in Newfoundland. They have come to Ottawa looking for help and guidance.

This is not the first debate. We had one three weeks ago. That was an emergency debate. It went on well into the evening and well into the night. My colleague the parliamentary secretary knows that this is a serious issue.

I may have said that there is something lacking in the government and to my way of looking at it and to Canadians I am sure, looking in from out there, is the idea that the government is not doing anything, and it is not.