

*Oral Questions*

and to provide the appropriate programs and assistance to those communities which are absolutely necessary and to which this government is fully committed.

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, the residents of Atlantic Canada know that the reports on the fisheries that have taken place year after year are much more concrete than this government's promises about what it is going to do in Atlantic Canada.

Increasingly Canadians on the west coast involved in the fishing industry are wondering if the same kind of neglect we have seen on the east coast is going to take place on the west coast. There are 10,000 British Columbian jobs that depend on fish processing.

Will the minister indicate how the federal government intends to protect those jobs and ensure that the salmon and herring fishery is protected? Can the minister explain to this House how he can exercise effective resource management when his department does not even know now how many fish are being caught and sold directly to the United States?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, with all due regard for the sincerity of the Leader of the NDP in posing the question, the government and the department of fisheries know very accurately how many fish are being caught and processed in British Columbia and in Atlantic Canada.

What is not always known with great certainty is how many fish remain in the water, because over the years there have been improvements and changes to scientific methodology which give us, as a result, the most abundant salmon and herring fisheries that have ever been seen on the Pacific coast in this century.

It is a fact that more fish were imported raw from the United States in 1989 than were exported to the United States. It is a fact that there are more processing jobs in the British Columbia fishery today than there were in 1984.

The hon. member should do her homework because, if she did, she would find those facts to be the absolute truth.

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**AGRICULTURE**

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Deputy Prime Minister is obviously aware that President Bush has just announced an increase to the American export enhancement program and that this increase in subsidies on American grain exports will give Americans a further advance in pursuing traditional Canadian grain markets.

What is the government prepared to do to respond to this new threat? Will he announce concrete and specific measures to help Canadian farmers keep Canadian grain export markets?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the proposal is for the 1991 fiscal year and it is a proposal by the President to Congress asking for \$900 million in the export enhancement program.

I would like to draw to her attention that in the year 1990 the President asked for \$1 billion and Congress granted \$566 million. That is really what we are dealing with today.

What this brings to light in a very dramatic fashion is the need and the urgency for making progress at the MTN negotiations. Quite frankly, it is Canada that has been at the forefront, along with other exporting grain countries like Australia, in dealing with this issue.

I might remind the hon. member that what we are seeing here is a signal by the United States that it is not going to continue to tolerate the trade distorting practices of the European Community which, by the way, has become the second largest exporter in the world. It has displaced Canada as the second largest exporter of grain in the world.

It is the Europeans who are really the culprits in this issue. What we are seeing is the response by the Americans. What we have to do is bring about a gradual reduction of the trade distorting subsidies so that we can have once again a level playing field.

**Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!**

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**CROWN CORPORATIONS**

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister who is the administrator of our conflict of interest rules for the government.