

Oral Questions

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, there is no mystery as to why the hon. member put that question. He put the question not out of any interest for the fishermen of the west or east coast. He put that question because he is driven by a fixation with the free trade agreement and driven by an animosity against the United States. That is simply not an effective way to conduct policy in the country.

In effect, what we have done with the decision that was announced in Vancouver yesterday by my colleague, the Minister for International Trade, is to take steps that guarantee our capacity to apply Canadian conservation measures.

If he knows anything about the problems that the Canadian fishery faces, particularly now and acutely in Atlantic Canada, it is that we have to be effective on conservation measures. The measures that were announced by the Government of Canada yesterday protect the interests of Canada, protect the interests of Canadian fishermen by ensuring that our conservation regimes will stay in place.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Madam Speaker, the problem is that this poor, benighted minister still does not understand what it means to protect the interests of Canadians.

In saying that, I want to ask him about his great claim about conservation. The President of the B.C. Fisheries Council, Mr. Hunter, has pointed out that the decision the government has acquiesced to will create exactly the same problems on the west coast that the east coast fisheries now has—dwindling stocks, lack of data and giving away the rights of 25 per cent of the fishing stock to the Americans which we are now fighting against the Europeans for doing.

How can this government reconcile the fact that we are telling the Europeans that they do not have rights on the east coast when we have given exactly the same rights on the west coast to the Americans? Does this government not understand that it is putting the fishing industry on both coasts in jeopardy now?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I cannot verify the quote the hon. member put on the record. If the person he cited said that, he too is wrong.

Let me come to the point that the hon. member was trying to make yesterday about an export tax. In his fixation with the free trade agreement and in his determination to be guided in everything by hostility towards the United States, he has focused upon the question of the export tax.

If the man were honest, if the country is interested in an honest debate about the instruments that are available to Canada, the member would admit that we have used an export tax once on softwood. It did not work. It is a device that is so ineffective, it has not been used for decades by the government of which he was a part, or by this government.

Indeed, he also knows that if there were to be introduced an export tax in this area of the magnitude that would be effective to do the job, that would break the rules of GATT. He understands that.

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): You are so stupid, Joe, it is unbelievable. You don't know what GATT means.

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THE BUDGET

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Madam Speaker, this government said yesterday that deficit reduction comes first, that the deficit comes first before the women of Canada.

The deficit does not come first when it comes to giving \$161 million to the government's friends at Boeing.

The deficit does not come first when it comes to spending \$14 million advertising the GST, a tax that no one wants.

The deficit does not come first when it comes to giving \$114 million more to the armed forces in Europe. But the deficit does come first before the women of Canada.

Could the Deputy Prime Minister explain why CSIS got an increase of \$33 million, yet programs to battered women have been cut? Could the Deputy Prime Minister explain why the boys can have their toys in the military while services to women are axed?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Madam Speaker, no battered women's program, no women in violence will be affected at all. What has been