Oral Questions

Mr. McDermid: He is grandstanding on this and he knows it. We brought in requirements consistent with GATT, the GATT which he supports, to land the salmon and herring for conservation purposes in this country. That goes a long way to help the fishing industry on the West Coast, and the Hon. Member knows that. He is just grandstanding today.

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FISHERIES

REQUEST THAT NEW REGULATIONS BE REVOKED

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am reluctant to direct a question to the same Minister, so I will direct it to the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the Prime Minister. We cannot get a proper answer from that Minister who said this decision will help the fishing industry in the West Coast.

I have a statement by the President of the Fishery Council in British Columbia, by the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia and by the United Fishermen and Allied Workers, the three major organizations in British Columbia that speak for the fishing industry. They say that we will lose $200 million worth of products and 1,000 jobs. That is the statement by the industry.

Therefore, will the Government change the regulations and restore to that industry the viability which is taken away by this decision?

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs)): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have a question from the Hon. Member. He and I have debated trade issues over the last two and a half years. I notice that his figure of 1,000 jobs is 6,000 less than that given by the Leader of the New Democratic Party. You should get together on your estimates.

Mr. Allmand: Answer the question.

Mr. McDermid: The estimates of the Liberal Party have been wrong all the way along with respect to job losses and all these agreements that this Government has negotiated over the years anyway. It is not a surprise to me today.

The Hon. Member is another great supporter of GATT. He travelled throughout the country. I saw him on the *The Journal* and elsewhere telling us that the GATT is our salvation. But the minute something is brought against us by the GATT, he is on his feet telling us to forget the GATT and get rid of it. You can't do that.

Mr. Allmand: He never said that.

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I just want to correct the record. They are not my figures, they are figures obtained directly from the representatives of the fishing industry in British Columbia, the people who know what is at stake. Their jobs are at stake. It is clear that the industry involved finds that these regulations will be punitive and that there will be a major loss of jobs in British Columbia. I point out to the Minister that the Government gave away the right to impose an export tax, which is a legitimate means under the GATT to protect Canadian workers and the Canadian processing industry. The Government is responsible for this decision. The Government must rescind the decision.

REQUEST THAT REGULATIONS BE CHANGED

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): My supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Will he take a stand to change these regulations and preserve those jobs?

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs)): Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note what the Hon. Member is quoting because it says nothing about salmon at all in this press release from the Fisheries Council. It just refers to herring. The herring season is now over, as the Hon. Member will know if he knows anything about the West Coast fishery. We have made a commitment to the herring fishing and processing industry that we will bring in GATT consistent measures to ensure that the herring roe industry on the West Coast remains viable. We have made that commitment to them and we plan to stand by it.

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● (1440)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND

Mr. Speaker: I wish to bring to Hon. Members' attention the presence in the gallery of The Right Hon. David Large, Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!