

*Oral Questions*

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is barking up the wrong tree. We are not talking about the Free Trade Agreement, we are talking about a regulation under the GATT. When it suits the Liberal Party, they tell us to follow GATT. When it doesn't suit them, they tell us to set aside the regulations of this international body. And I would like to conclude with this morning's CBC commentary on this particular point. I am quoting the CBC and not Premier McKenna. The CBC said this:

[*English*]

"Premier Frank McKenna says New Brunswick's economy is far from being in a state of crisis. He was responding to comments made during a debate in the House of Commons yesterday. Opposition MPs said the Atlantic provinces were in an economic crisis because of the collapse of the fishery. McKenna says there are problems but describing the situation as a crisis is going too far".

**Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I would remind the Prime Minister and the Premier, Mr. McKenna, that the ground fishery is in trouble and it is critical. It is a major problem of this government's making.

How can the Prime Minister stand there when 46 per cent of the value of a billion dollar industry is in trouble and this government does nothing? How can he say there is no crisis in the Atlantic provinces when so many people are out of work because the policy has not changed and the direction that he is giving Atlantic Canada has not changed? There is a crisis in the ground fishery.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has made precisely the point that I sought to make yesterday. I was being howled down by her members, but now she agrees that indeed while there is a crisis in the Atlantic fishery, as I said yesterday, there is as Premier McKenna said no crisis throughout all of the other areas of industrial endeavour in Atlantic Canada.

It is important that Liberals stop saying there is a crisis, trumpeting gloom and doom thereby driving away investment that is coming to Atlantic Canada.

New Brunswick, for example, led all of the Canadian provinces last year in growth in investment, with a 24 per cent increase. There were substantial increases elsewhere.

Prince Edward Island has a balanced budget. There are good areas of economic growth throughout Atlantic Canada. Let us work together to make them better and let us resolve in a very serious and thoughtful way the crisis in the Atlantic fishery.

**Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. I say to him that this is a crisis in one sector. It is a renewable resource. This government has not improved on it since 1981. It was a \$1 billion industry then, and it is still a \$1 billion industry. When is he going to intervene and say that the policy he has taken on, that the private sector can handle this problem in the industry, is not effective? There has to be government intervention instead of whitewashing it and saying there will be help. This government is doing nothing.

There is no food on the table for people who are unemployed in Atlantic Canada. Come to Digby and talk to the people who were laid off last week because of this government's policy. Go to Lockeport. Go talk to the people.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, there have been many improvements with respect to the Atlantic fishery since 1984, including the fact that the giveaway—

**Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova):** Name them. Name them in the ground fishery. Talk to the lobster people.

**Mr. Riis:** She said '81, John.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member believes that the Liberals have been out of power since 1981. Actually, it is only since 1984, although to them it appears like 1981.

One of the improvements made in the Atlantic fishery since 1984 has been the decision of the government to end the European communities taking 9,500 tonnes of northern cod from the area known as 2J3KL which was terminated. This giveaway of fish by the previous Liberal government has been stopped. That is just one of the many improvements made since 1984.

There is now a \$130 million program in effect to assist those who may be laid off by the closure of plants in certain communities. As the hon. member will know, some of those communities have been given the notice of a year and a half in order to try to get ready for the consequences of a close down, including community