

*Oral Questions***YOUNG OFFENDERS**

How can the Government of Canada not only give France cod quotas in the northern cod zone but now notify the Canadian Embassy in Paris that it is going to give France more quotas in the northern cod zone from July 1 until September 30 when the boundary dispute has been settled?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the boundary dispute has been settled. I think it has been settled very much to Canada's satisfaction and in the interest of the Newfoundland fishery. I should point out in terms of what is happening right now, the quotas that have been granted now until the end of September follow directly from the agreement of March 1989. There is a legal obligation to continue with that.

No one will be happier than the minister of fisheries and the Government of Canada once this obligation is completed. We will be in a position to fully manage as a result of the decision that was made by the boundaries commission.

Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls): Mr. Speaker, the 1989 agreement signed by the Government of Canada gave France northern cod quotas for two years "in proportion to the Canadian offshore allocation".

Does the government not realize that there has been a moratorium on the Canadian offshore allocation for the past six months and any proportion of zero is still zero even for France?

Why is the government giving northern cod quotas to France illegally?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the way article 5 reads is not the way the hon. member has described it.

The 15 per cent that was granted was based on the law. The decision did not come down before May 15. The hon. member is trying to over-simplify what has been a difficult and technical problem for us. After September 30 we are going to be in an excellent position, thanks to the fact that we won a very important international case which has the best possible implications for the fishery in Newfoundland.

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the distinguished Minister of Justice.

Increasingly, Canadians are becoming quite disturbed by the punishment meted out to young offenders under 17 years of age, especially if they have been convicted of a homicide or brutal assault.

What action does the minister intend to take to stop the giving of a slight slap on the wrist and young offenders being told to be good and go back home?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member who is a man of rare discernment and good taste for the question.

The question is a serious one. It has been dealt with to some degree already by members of this House in passing amendments to the Young Offenders Act and of later statutes which provide a greater range of options available to judges in transferring young offenders' charges on very serious crimes to adult court thereby providing a larger range of sentence and parole options.

As the hon. member will know, there is considerable concern in this country with the Young Offenders Act. Some of it is more a reflection of how the act is implemented than what is in it itself. We are undertaking with the active participation of members of this House, in particular members of our caucus, a review of the Young Offenders Act in order to try and address the concerns the hon. member raises.

Confidence of the Canadian people in the justice system is absolutely vital. We wish to address the concerns of Canadians with respect to the Young Offenders Act and we are geared to doing that.

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CHRISTINE LAMONT AND DAVID SPENCER

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

Many Canadians are deeply concerned about the continued imprisonment in Brazilian jails on 28-year sentences of two young Canadians, Christine Lamont and David Spencer.