

Oral Questions

have given up control of the resource: 20 per cent for the first year, 25 per cent for the next three years, subject to review after that, and who knows how high it will go.

Will the Prime Minister give up this Minister for International Trade before he gives up total control of all resources in Canada?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the falsehood is inadvertent, but it is simply false for the member of the New Democratic Party to say that we have given up control of our fishery.

What we have done with this agreement is asserted control of our fishery by ensuring that conservation practices and standards of this country will apply to at sea as well as other catches.

• (1430)

In reply to the other question, this problem began for Canada with a GATT ruling. I assume that the New Democratic Party, which claims to believe in the importance of international agreements, believes that Canada should accept the rulings and the jurisdiction of GATT. That is where the problem began. We lost a decision before GATT. That was settled some years ago.

As my colleague the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans just said, there was a panel recommendation that would have been less favourable to Canada than the agreement which was concluded today and announced by the Minister for International Trade.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the same minister. He has just made an attempt to correct the members of the NDP. Perhaps he should correct his own explanation of the facts.

This problem did not begin with the decision of the GATT; this problem began when this government gave up the right to impose an export tax under the free trade agreement. That is when we gave up the right to protect Canadian interests. That is when the problem began, when the right of Canadians to protect themselves with an export tax which is legitimized by GATT was given up. That is the truth, that is the fact and that is why this government is sacrificing thousands of fish processing workers on the west coast.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have heard the hon. member's indignation. His facts are wrong. Does he have question?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, what is wrong is the stand this government took to capitulate to the United States and giving away our west coast fishing.

I want to ask the minister this question. How can we stay credible when we just gave away to the Americans on the west coast what we are objecting to the Europeans taking on the east coast? How do we argue with the Europeans that they are taking one-quarter of our catch of cod on the east coast when we just gave it away to the Americans on the west coast? You have lost your credibility, you have lost your legitimacy and you are losing jobs for Canadians.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, you and I came to this House at the same time and we have noticed that one of the things that has happened is that increasingly Question Period is used for people to make dramatic accusations rather than put questions. That is what the hon. member has just done. He is wrong in his facts about the agreement. He is wrong in his suggestion with regard to the situation.

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): State what the facts are. You surrendered this country. That is what we find.

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[*Translation*]

THE BUDGET

Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The Budget has provoked some strong reactions, and I would like to quote the Quebec Minister of Education, Claude Ryan: "I think it is absolutely deplorable that the federal government has further reduced its commitment to postsecondary education". "There is a deplorable contradiction between what it says and what it does".

How does the minister intend to respond to these words, coming from a politician who is an expert on education?