

Oral Questions

Mr. Allmand: You've got to be kidding. That's why every Atlantic government is opposed to the bill—even the Conservative government in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Sit down!

Mr. Mulroney: That bill will provide for unemployment insurance at 10 weeks. The Liberal Senators want to keep it at 14 weeks. You are betraying the poor people who need unemployment insurance in Atlantic Canada. You should be ashamed of yourselves!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: What a disgraceful bunch of hypocrites.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FISHERIES

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, let me assure the Prime Minister that the people in the Atlantic do not want unemployment insurance. They want work and a good fishing industry. They do not want your unemployment, and they do not want the policies of that Minister of Employment.

My question is for the Prime Minister.

To top off a week when an American scallop dragger flagrantly violated our maritime sovereignty, when the European Community proposed new quotas that continue to rape our fish stocks, when fish processing plants are closing all over the place, and now the President signs a bill that effectively wipes out a \$30 million lobster industry, will the Prime Minister begin to take effective action to protect Canadian interests in the Atlantic fishery?

When is he going to come to the realization that the free trade agreement will be of little help in dealing with American attitudes that allow a bill such as the President signed this week to be passed?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am intrigued by the statement of the hon. member who says that the people in the depressed areas of Atlantic Canada do not want unemployment insurance.

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): They want work.

Mr. Mulroney: They want work, the hon. member is right. That is why unemployment since this government was sworn in has decreased in the provinces of Atlantic Canada by 4, 5 and 6 per cent from where it was left by the Liberals.

Ms. Clancy: Tell them in Canso.

Mr. Mulroney: I think it is disgraceful that the Liberal leader allows the Liberal Senate to hold up an unemployment insurance bill that would give more money to the poor fishermen in Atlantic Canada. I think he should give instructions today to Allan MacEachen to call off his troops and pass that unemployment insurance bill now because it is designed to benefit the people of Atlantic Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Clancy: You would get arrested in Nova Scotia after this.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the right hon. Prime Minister could complete his answer shortly.

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the right hon. Prime Minister to complete his answer.

Mr. Peterson: He's finished.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for South West Nova.

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, I would assure the Prime Minister that the statistics he has on unemployment insurance do not take into account the people who did not have enough work to get unemployment insurance—those fishermen who only had eight and not ten weeks, those workers who did not have 17 or 18 weeks of employment in order to qualify. Put them into your statistics.

Mr. Charest: That's the point.

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): This past Tuesday the Prime Minister asked for a quick reference to a bi-national panel under the free trade agreement regarding a size restriction on lobsters by the United States legislation. So much for the assurances of the Prime Minister and the President that other discussions would be held.