

Oral Questions

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, I say to the minister that it is not only a disagreement, they have stopped talking altogether. That is quite a different thing than a disagreement.

I want to ask the minister a supplementary question. When does he anticipate that the proposed, much talked about, much awaited aid package will finally be made public? What does the minister see as the real purpose of the package? Is it to help the fishermen and plant workers to bridge the gap to better times, or is it just going to be the latest element in what I submit is the government's insidious plan to shut down rural Canada by so-called diversification, a code word for resettlement?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as a former supporter of Mr. Smallwood, the hon. member is a much greater expert on questions relating to resettlement in Newfoundland and Labrador than I am.

There is no insidious plan on the part of the government of Canada. We do, however, have a determination to finally take account of the fact that there is a very serious problem in the northern cod fishery. We are putting together a policy that has involved extensive consultation as to the means by which we can provide a long term answer to that problem. We have been consulting extensively with the unions, with the companies, with provinces that are willing to be forthcoming. We expect that the announcement will be made in the next days or weeks.

Mr. Speaker: I would advise the House there will be a single question from the hon. member for Cape Breton Highlands—Canso, and a single question from the hon. member from Windsor—Lake St. Clair.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, my question was directed to the Minister of Fisheries, but in his absence, I will direct it to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

This year, the fishermen of Chéticamp, who started their season this week, will be subject to new restrictions on their fishing activities because at the very last minute, the Minister of Fisheries decided to introduce a program to monitor fish landings, but without sufficient re-

sources. Because of the lack of observers for this program, times and locations where fishermen can land their catch have been limited, which may put downward pressure on prices and fishermen's incomes.

Why is the Minister of Fisheries making fishermen in Chéticamp and elsewhere in the Gulf pay for his department's lack of planning?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept that the present problem is the result of a lack of planning. The hon. member asked a specific question. I am confident that the minister, if he were here, would be able to give a specific answer. Unfortunately, I don't have the details but I will advise my colleague, the responsible minister, of this question, and I can assure the hon. member that he will receive a detailed answer.

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• (1200)

[*English*]

TRADE

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to whomever speaks for the Minister of Industry, the Minister of Trade or the Prime Minister or whomever.

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. McCurdy: Like many other parts manufacturers in the automobile industry, Kelsey-Hayes of Windsor, which is owned by Varity Corporation, is moving to the United States. In this instance, however, the government can do something. Varity Corporation, which was previously Massey-Ferguson, was bailed out by the federal government to the tune of \$125 million, as a result of which they entered into a covenant to ensure Canadian jobs and the government has an equity position in Varity.

Will the government use its arrangement and equity in Varity to help prevent the loss of additional Canadian jobs in Windsor? Save those 450 jobs that are about to be lost. The government has an opportunity to do something. I ask it to commit itself now to do something.

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to respond to my hon. friend. This particular development in Windsor is of concern to the government. It is true that the