

Oral Questions

yesterday he would not specify certain quotas with certain communities.

In the 1970s when Petit de Grat was threatened with closure then Liberal governments federally and provincially said that if vessels at Petit de Grat were going to fish they had to stay at Petit de Grat or not fish.

Will the Prime Minister stipulate now that any fish company which closes a plant will be required to keep those boats at that plant or not fish, and if they do not fish they will have their quotas reduced correspondingly?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend refers to a meeting held in Port Hawkesbury, almost next to Canso, written by Professor Davis from St. Francis Xavier who describes a visit there by Senator Kirby in 1983 and laying out—

Ms. Clancy: What are you on about? Pay attention.

Mr. Tobin: This is 1990.

Mr. Mulroney: I am answering the question. He lays out what he says the solutions are. Those solutions turned out to be the genesis of today's problems.

What I am saying to my hon. friend is apart from the programs that have been initiated and apart from the statement that I have made in respect of our attitude toward the Atlantic fishery, which will be comparable to that which we displayed in respect of the prairie farmer, I am delighted to have from him any suggestions. We will look very carefully at any suggestions that he and other members of this House make to put together a package of initiatives and changes that will benefit the Atlantic fishermen.

Our objective is to restore the Atlantic fishery to its previous health. To do this will require less partisanship and much more progressive attitudes from all members of the House of Commons. I do thank my hon. friend for what I think is a constructive suggestion.

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AGRICULTURE

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. I think it will be small comfort to the people of Atlantic Canada, those fish plant workers who are going to be unemployed, that

the right hon. Prime Minister has said that he will tackle the problem in Atlantic Canada with the same enthusiasm that he has done so for western farmers. I point out that according to Statistics Canada, net farm incomes in 1990 will fall 87 per cent in Manitoba, 54 per cent in Alberta and 101 per cent in Saskatchewan. There will be a negative farm income in Saskatchewan.

• (1440)

Some hon. members: Shame!

Ms. McLaughlin: The Minister of Agriculture has released a green paper called *Growing Together* which has ironically been subtitled "starving together" by prairie farmers.

Can the minister justify to the farmers of Canada his agricultural policy which he knows is destroying the family farm and the rural communities in western Canada?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, with respect, I might remind the hon. leader of the New Democratic Party that if members of her party were so interested in the welfare of the farmers they would have facilitated and expedited the back to work legislation that would get grain moving. That would be the first thing they could do.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: Rather than selling out to the labour union leaders' interests, they may want to start paying a little more attention to the welfare of the farmers.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: The hon. leader will know that the projections are very preliminary. We had similar projections with respect to the 1989 crop year that were forecast about this time a year ago. While there has been a slight drop from the record high incomes of 1988, 1989 came in just slightly below the 1988 figures, but significantly higher as compared to the original projections.

I might remind the hon. member that the crop is not in the ground yet and there are a lot of considerations to take into account.