

*Oral Questions*

province, the Hon. Member should realize that since 1984, 39,000 new jobs have been created—

**Mr. Robichaud:** Oh, come on! The situation is worse than it ever has been!

**Mr. Mulroney:**—in New Brunswick and that investment—Now listen! Instead of shouting slogans I think you all should listen! And if you don't want to listen to me, New Brunswick, I think you should at least listen to the Premier of New Brunswick, Mr. Frank McKenna. This is what he said in a statement published in the *Financial Post* on April 21.

[*English*]

I quote: "According to Statistics Canada, New Brunswick will lead the nation in capital spending growth in 1989, up a whopping 24.1 per cent. Business investment will increase an astonishing 37.7 per cent in 1989".

Listen to what the Premier of New Brunswick says. "With a world class port, a first-rate work force and our strategic location in light of the Free Trade Agreement, New Brunswick is fast becoming known as the smart place to be. We think investors and business leaders should know this information, but if we don't tell you, who will?"

That was Frank McKenna, Premier of New Brunswick. Stop bad-mouthing New Brunswick. Stop bad-mouthing Atlantic Canada and help us build a stronger Atlantic Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I tell him that the people are saying that all that guff he just got on with will not put any—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member will put his question.

**Mr. Simmons:** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister recognizes the crisis and is at least half a step ahead of the Minister of Fisheries.

It is an unfolding national tragedy and it is a disgrace of international proportions. What the people, the fish plant workers, the fishermen want to know from this Prime Minister, what they desperately need, is a clear signal from him that he understands the dimensions of

this tragedy, that he cares about them and that he is prepared to put it as his first order of business.

I ask him, would he now give notice that he is prepared to stand up to the European Community, to take definitive action to stop the over-fishing in order to protect the jobs and the way of life being jettisoned by his callous inaction up until now?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister indicated, there is of course an international dimension to this and it involves dealing effectively with the European Community.

I think the hon. member, if he is serious about solving the problem, would know that there are no gunboat solutions available here. There are none and anyone in this House who pretends that there are gunboat solutions is simply misleading the people who already have problems enough in Newfoundland and in Nova Scotia and elsewhere in Atlantic Canada.

The only way this can be solved is by tough-nosed negotiation with the European Community. We have begun that and have already made some progress. Not enough progress—and we are the first to admit that—but much more progress than there had been before when people dealt only in rhetoric and were not prepared to be involved in serious negotiations.

The Prime Minister has been in touch with the President of the European Community. The response of the President of the European Community has been more constructive than we had thought it would be. We intend to follow that up. We intend also—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Well, hon. members opposite can belittle the progress that is being made and they can pretend that there is some way that we can threaten the Europeans into line. They know that is false. We are not interested in dealing with falsity. We are interested in trying to restore stability and some prospect of growth to the fishery of Atlantic Canada.

**Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, the minister claims progress. I would say to him that after five years of silence, of using the Atlantic fishery as a pawn at best, the government began to pay lip-service and the minister got his answer from the Spanish and Portuguese a month ago on that. Despite all