

Oral Questions

Could I call on the Prime Minister to order his minister of fisheries to come to the aid of Newfoundland plant workers and fishermen who need more money, to provide programs for them that they badly need and rightly deserve?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, in connection with this program, this program has provided funds to assist fishermen affected by catch failure wherever they were in Atlantic Canada, including Nova Scotia. The lion's share, if we might call it that, of the assistance has gone to Newfoundland and Labrador because this was the main area of catch failure.

For example, in connection with funding provided for 14,000 additional tonnes of herring to be purchased to give more work to fishermen and fish plant workers, 10,000 tonnes of that was allocated to Newfoundland and 4,000 to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. We are trying to be as fair as we can be.

The Prime Minister of course is heavily in favour of assistance to anyone living anywhere in Canada where there is a demonstrated need, as the actions of the government have shown.

* * *

LAND CLAIMS

Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiaq):

[Editor's Note: Member spoke in Inuktitut]

[English]

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. For 50 years the Lubicon Lake Indian band has been trying to settle its land claims. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has said he is committed to resolving this claim.

Why then have there been no negotiations with the Lubicon Cree since 1989, and can the Prime Minister explain why the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development created and funded last year a new band in the area claimed by the Lubicon band?

Hon. Shirley Martin (Minister of State (Transport)): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member's ongoing concern on this particular issue, just as the Minister of

Indian Affairs and Northern Development also has a concern.

We have been working with the bands to try to reach an agreement on this.

Mr. Kilgour: Baloney.

Mrs. Martin: We are ready to sit down with them when they are ready to come back to the table and we will follow up on this.

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the hon. member for Edmonton Southeast would apologize to the hon. minister for shouting out comments in the middle of her answer.

Mr. Kilgour: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the minister, but I do not think her answer was very candid.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think that that is any apology at all. This is the very thing where we are getting into difficulty. I have asked the hon. member to withdraw unequivocally.

Mr. Kilgour: I am not going to go beyond that. I have apologized.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member rise to his feet and let me know what he is saying? I cannot hear him otherwise.

Mr. Kilgour: Mr. Speaker, I am familiar with the Lubicon file too and I think that the question was fair. I do not think the answer was a fair response.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member's intervention is completely improper.

Mr. Kilgour: I agree it was a bit strong.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the hon. member to make it quite clear, at least to the Chair, that the intervention was improper and that it is withdrawn.

Mr. Kilgour: Out of my great respect for you, Mr. Speaker, I will agree that my comment was a bit strong. If it offended you then I apologize.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Withdraw.

• (1500)

Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiaq): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister.

An order to create another new band, the Loon Lake band in the northern part of the land claimed by the Lubicon band, is apparently in the office of the Minister