

Oral Questions

I think it would be in the interests of everyone, both East and West, and in the interests of Mr. Gorbachev's reputation as a democrat and a reformer, to recognize that the Baltic republics are different and to deal with them accordingly.

In the same respect, the Baltic leadership should be prepared to deal reasonably with the Soviet Union in order to deal with its economic, military and other security needs.

In the meantime this senselessness of the blockade should stop, particularly the blockade with respect to medical supplies. The situation in Lithuania is worsening. There is a shortage of insulin, syringes and other important medical supplies. The first thing the Soviet Union should do in addition to sitting down at the table with the Baltic leadership is to stop the blockade, particularly the blockade of medical supplies. The international community should do what it can to come to the aid of Lithuania with respect to medical supplies as well.

* * *

FISHERIES

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, the Atlantic Fisheries Adjustment Program represents an important first step in the government's response to the current difficulties in the Atlantic fishery.

Funds allocated for additional research and more effective management will benefit all regions of coastal Atlantic Canada. The \$147 million in diversification funds will provide incentives to reduce our dependency on traditional fisheries. The programs and community development funds targeted for communities specifically impacted by the northern cod decline will obviously benefit those communities.

I trust, however, that the government does not consider that with these announcements its job is done. Communities which have suffered plant closures for causes other than the decline of northern cod do not understand why their specific needs were not addressed in the adjustment component of the aid package.

I urge the government to get on with establishing community development funding for these communities as well, in particular, for the communities of southern

and western Nova Scotia such as Port Mouton, Clarks Harbour, Shag Harbour and Woods Harbour.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FISHERIES

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I understand that the Prime Minister will meet today with the head of the Spanish government, President Felipe Gonzales.

Experts have identified overfishing by the Spanish and Portuguese fleets as an important cause of declining fish stocks off Atlantic Canada.

Will the Prime Minister discuss this important issue with the President of Spain today? Will he obtain the assurance of the president that Spain will accept lower fish quotas and not continue its overfishing which is causing serious and possibly permanent damage to Canadian fish stocks?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I had meetings with the President of the Government of Spain last night and again today dealing with the important question of the fishery. We will be meeting a little later on this afternoon and again tonight.

I have expressed very clearly the point of view of the people of Canada and the government of Canada and have found in President Gonzales a very constructive interlocutor who recognizes full well that important conservation measures must begin if there is to be the preservation of that vital resource.

I am happy to advise the House that the conversations that I have had with the Spanish President in this important area have been what I think my hon. friend would qualify as thoughtful, very constructive and, I am sure, beneficial for those who work in the fishing industry in Canada.

[Translation]

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister why, in the course of his talks, he did not receive the assurance that Spain would immediately stop overfishing and start