

Oral Questions

The Prime Minister did not blame fishermen, and the government certainly has not suggested there is nothing we can do about foreign overfishing. Obviously foreign overfishing is a contributing factor to a very serious problem facing the fishing industry and also, as importantly, facing the many individuals and businesses which depend upon the fishing industry in Atlantic Canada to survive.

What can we do about it? We have already had some movement from the European community; not enough but some. We are pressing for more. The Prime Minister has been in touch with President Delors. Delors has written a response that is more forthcoming than we had expected before. The Prime Minister has indicated that he is prepared to meet with Delors.

The Community Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Marin, has agreed to come to Canada in the next several weeks to talk to Canadians about what we can do to have a more effective regime with respect to foreign overfishing. We are going to follow that up. We are going to follow up every reasonable lead we can to ensure that we solve that part of the problem and others that are creating so much distress in Atlantic Canada.

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Now the minister talks about falsehoods. I ask him, when he gets up the second time—

• (1440)

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment. The hon. member has taken some time in his first question. There are other hon. members who are waiting to be heard. I ask the hon. member to direct his question and to do it quickly.

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Deputy Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he can tell the House what specific progress there has been. He keeps talking about some movement. I ask him: Does he suggest to the House that the Europeans plan to catch four times as much fish as the quota allows? Is that what he is calling progress?

Would he also indicate while he is on his feet if he is going to increase the monitoring? There is one boat out there trying to chase down all those foreigners. Is he going to do something about that?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as a representative of an Atlantic constituency which involves the fishing industry and industries affected by it, I assume the hon. member has been following the announcements that have been made by the European Community.

He will know that there were recommendations made to the community with regard to the amount of fish they would take in waters in the high seas where there is a dispute about the applicability of the NAFO quotas. He will know that they have come closer to our view with respect to some stocks than they had before. He will know that they have not come—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Hon. members opposite who were part of a government that gave away quotas to foreign fishermen that showed the basis of the problems that our industry now faces are—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Simmons: You're lying now. That's a falsehood.

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JUSTICE

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, the Donald Marshall inquiry has found out what this government has been told for years, that the Canadian justice system is racially biased against native Indians and that there is an urgent and pressing need for change.

The inquiry recommends a native court system for Nova Scotia, a native justice institute, a tripartite forum to resolve outstanding issues between the Micmacs and the governments and a system of native court workers.

Will the Minister of Justice start consultations now, not only with the government officials he has consulted in the past but also with native groups that are suffering these injustices, in order to implement the recommendations of the Marshall inquiry?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the federal government welcomed the results of the Marshall inquiry as a very legitimate effort to review a problem in this country.

The provincial government has asked for I believe a week to 10 days to review the findings of the commission. We intend to take a relative amount of time in order to apprise ourselves of all the recommendations in an effort