

*Oral Questions*

I ask the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who is seized with this particular problem and has been reviewing it for an extended period of time what specific plan of action, and the time frame for that plan of action, he is prepared to implement to assist those fishermen, those communities and those plant workers. Those Canadians deserve an answer.

• (1500)

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency):** Mr. Speaker, our Atlantic groundfish management plan was announced the middle of December 1992. As I have said regular programs are in place, including the regular unemployment insurance program, and most people are covered, if not all, under those programs now.

There may well be as we approach May some people who come off the unemployment insurance program who will be affected so there is still time to review the situation.

There are many programs available: the Community Futures program, the Atlantic Adjustment Program and FAP, the Fisheries Alternatives Program. These are all being examined to see if we need more flexibility and what additional steps are needed. An announcement will be made in due course.

**Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, the minister of fisheries to whom I direct my question will know that today in Sydney and tomorrow in Halifax fishermen are expressing their outrage at the way the government is handling the fisheries crisis.

To sit here and listen to his responses to my colleague a moment ago one would think there is no problem. One would think that one program or another is taking care of all those people. That just is not the case.

How does he explain the outrage being expressed in Sydney today and in Halifax tomorrow? Is he all right and those fishermen all wrong, or is there maybe some truth to the charge that the government has failed those people in terms of the compensation package he ought to be making available to them?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency):** Mr. Speaker, we are all familiar with the nature of campaigns that are launched and under way from time to time in connection with people who want

the government to take action in one direction or another.

It is a common feature of all those campaigns. Outrage is a very considerable part of a campaign so I am quite familiar with the fact that outrage is being expressed. I am also familiar with the fact that we have many programs under way that are assisting fishermen and plant workers throughout Atlantic Canada. We are going to be spending \$780 million to \$800 million under the northern cod program. We are spending an additional \$584 million under the Atlantic Fisheries Adjustment Program. We are reviewing the situation to see what additional assistance might be needed or what additional flexibility might be needed to assist the people who may require assistance because of the lower TACs this year.

Present programs at the moment are looking after them, but these present programs may well not be adequate after May. Naturally it is a feature of demonstrations and the like that people express their dissatisfaction and their disgruntlement. That is the nature of demonstrations.

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**PRESENCE IN THE GALLERY**

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw to the attention of members the presence in the gallery of the Honourable Vassyl Durdynetz, First Deputy Chairman, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** I also draw their attention to the presence in the gallery of Mr. Tassos Karamarios, member of the Greek Parliament.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

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**POINTS OF ORDER****TABLING OF DOCUMENT**

**Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, when the minister responded to my question on unemployment insurance today he suggested that I was using erroneous information.

I would like to take this opportunity to table the government document from which my question arose and in which it is said that a person voluntarily leaving employment by personal choice to take care of her child