

Through an agreement signed by the U.S.A. and Canada, a funding arrangement of 69 per cent and 21 per cent respectively was signed in 1955.

Canada has continually dragged its feet in funding commitments. This year the U.S.A. has committed an 18 per cent increase and to this point Canada has not responded. A \$3.5 million investment could preserve a \$1.4 billion industry.

Our Canadian workers in the field have tremendous expertise but cannot respond appropriately because of funding constraints.

Why doesn't the much-heralded green plan respond with funding to deal with this problem?

President Bush, an avid angler, appreciates the importance of this issue. He has baited the hook and we ask the Prime Minister to bite.

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[Translation]

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Mr. Jean-Luc Joncas (Matapédia—Matane): Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity over the past few weeks to meet with several farmers' organizations in my riding. Dairy, beef, pork, poultry and egg producers, they are all concerned, and rightly so, about the ongoing GATT negotiations. Canadian farmers have developed a supply management system at the cutting edge which regulates their production and allow them to make a decent living by operating their farms.

Let me tell you, as a member representing a riding which mostly depends on farming and having been raised on a family farm, that I share the concerns of the rural community regarding the unclear positions the media reported government has been taking at the GATT negotiations. Our farmers need to be reassured about the position being put forward by the government of Canada in Geneva and to know that it will keep supporting vigorously the strengthening of article XI of GATT. Mr. Speaker, I urge government to stand firm and not to renege on its commitment to the farm community.

[English]

S. O. 31

FISHERIES

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, the headlines on slashed cod quotas bring home the meaning of sustainable development and illustrate dramatically what can happen to fishermen, to farmers, and to loggers when we fail collectively to manage our natural resources properly.

Why is there a cod crisis? It is because for years more cod have been harvested than could be naturally renewed. Consequently, our fishermen are bearing the brunt of past mistakes. The situation is made worse by foreign fleets overfishing outside the 200-mile limit.

If future generations are to have a chance to earn a living off the Grand Banks then Ottawa must unilaterally take over management of the fish stocks on the Grand Banks outside the 200-mile limit.

This is an emergency which calls for emergency conservation measures.

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BREAST IMPLANTS

Mrs. Louise Feltham (Wild Rose): Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Minister of National Health and Welfare who recently announced the creation of an independent committee of experts to study silicone gel-filled breast implants.

This committee will travel to Washington, D.C. and review all current information on these implants. They will also have access to all documentation available to Health and Welfare Canada. They will make a preliminary recommendation to the minister before February 28.

This action clearly shows that the minister's priority is for the health and welfare of Canadian women.

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FISHERIES

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, the situation in the Atlantic fisheries is of fundamental importance to our economy, to the social welfare of our citizens and to the Canadian environment.