

*Oral Questions***SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

ice compensation program and others that were brought in last year.

Never in the history of Canada since Newfoundland joined it have so many programs been brought in to deal with problems in the fishery. They will continue to be brought in if the problems continue. It certainly seems likely with reference to the northern cod stock.

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, all the reports tell the minister the contrary. We tell him the contrary. The fishermen's catches tell him the contrary. If he wants to paint a picture and say it has never been so good, if he enjoys that thought, let him get his jollies from it.

Will the minister answer the question? Fishermen and plant workers in Lawn and St. Lawrence with whom I met over the weekend and people along the southwest coast and the northeast coast in Nova Scotia are all hurting. They are really hurting. They are all asking the same question, and I am going to put it to the minister now, much as they put it to me.

When is the minister going to make a move? They are not talking about a song and dance to say how rosy the picture is. When is he going to make a move, a substantive move? When will he do something for those people at least to keep the wolf from the door for them?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, in my opinion the hon. gentlemen is not serving the people he represents very well when he tries to exaggerate like this and when he deliberately distorts what I have said.

Has anybody else in the House heard me say how rosy the fishery picture is? Did I say that today?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Crosbie: Did I say today that never in history has the fishery been as good?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Crosbie: This is the kind of exaggeration that does a disservice to this serious problem in Newfoundland which we are attempting to deal with and which will not be helped by purported hysteria by the hon. gentlemen opposite.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Associate Minister of National Defence.

A woman soldier at CFB Comox has been harassed by superior officers. She has been called a "sexretary", a "biker mama", and asked about her dating habits. She has been subjected to other comments that I cannot even repeat in the House of Commons.

Her allegations of sexual harassment were inadequately addressed through military channels and now she is taking her case to the Human Rights Commission, but she is still being harassed. Her job has been threatened.

What will the minister do now to protect her while the matter is being investigated?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister Responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, yes, I am aware of the situation. It is an extremely unfortunate one. While I cannot comment on the individual's situation because indeed she has both redress of grievances in the system as well as a case before the Human Rights Commission, directions have gone out to the base commander to deal with this issue.

I understand certain actions have been taken, but there will be a further investigation to make sure. No woman should have to work in an environment which is poisoned as a result of sexual harassment.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's response, but since this woman went public the women's centre near the base has been inundated with further stories of harassment on military bases; in fact they are coming from all around the province now. One of these women herself is being threatened with a court martial.

The Robichaud human rights case ruled against DND several years ago and said it was a responsibility of DND to provide a work place free of sexual harassment.