

*Supply*

Let me get on to another question. The minister refers to tuna and ICCAT. He made a very impressive little speech about tuna and ICCAT, the international organization.

There are only three countries that belong to ICCAT, Canada, the United States and Japan. They meet once a year on assigned quotas. This past year they met and they assigned quotas: to Japan, 1,300 tonnes of bluefin; to the United States, 800 tonnes of bluefin; to Canada, 570 tonnes of bluefin. Canada is the only one of those three countries that allows Japan inside its 200-mile zone to catch tuna. We are not allowed to go inside Japan's 200-mile zone or the zone of the United States to catch tuna. We have assigned Japan a tuna quota of 180 tonnes of bluefin off Newfoundland, which is five times the quota that is assigned to Newfoundlanders, with an unlimited quota of other types of tuna.

One final point that the hon. member made, he talked about flags. He asked where the Atlantic cod are coming from. It is on the customs reports into Canada in the past year. He asked about Chile and about Korea. They do not see any Korean flags out there. They do not see any Chilean flags out there. They see Panamanian flags out there, that is what they see. That is where those countries get their flags and the hon. member should know full well.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Madam Speaker, let me say at the outset that we can say without unqualified hesitation that no one knows more about where squid comes from in the world than the hon. member from Gander. I would also say, more appropriately, that no one understands what is happening to the fishing industry and says it with more eloquence and more commitment than the member.

I want to join this debate to ensure that Canadians understand that this is not just a regional issue. As deeply as my colleagues from Newfoundland feel the ravages and the pain of their own fish workers and their own fishermen, this is an issue for all Canadians. This is an issue that affects every one of us. This is an issue that has ramifications and implications even beyond our own borders. It is very important that all Canadians stand up and be counted on this clear issue when there is such an incredible threat to one of the most valuable resources Canada has possessed for the last 400 or 500 years.

We like to talk about problems of holes in the ozone, but the much more real dramatic, environmentally sustainable development crisis facing us is right off the coast of Newfoundland today. It is that which we all have to speak out against and raise our voices to in order to understand that action is required.

I have to say that I was deeply and sorely disappointed when I listened to the minister speak today. I have always felt that when this minister takes on a cause he goes the full mile. He has never been reticent either about his own talents or about his own commitments. Listening to him today trying to defend the indefensible we find unacceptable. We tried to convince this House that this government was doing everything possible within its range of authority and jurisdiction to stop this overfishing. I went back and checked a few small facts.

He gave us a travel log of all the places that he and the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs have visited, trying to convince people in Europe and other places that they are in the wrong. Let us look at a few interesting facts. I suppose there is no better test of a government's commitment than where it puts its resources. Let us talk about the UNCED conference. This minister said: "By God, we are going to take a stand at UNCED". Why is it that the Department of External Affairs has cut its budget in half in terms of its commitment to UNCED in the next fiscal year? Is that a sign that it is prepared to take an environmental defence?

Last August, when the Government of Canada prepared its national report for the conference on environmental development, an incredible opportunity to state the case of the initiatives it will take on overfishing, what did it assign in this book of 300 pages? One paragraph was on overfishing. Not only that, it promised, in this very same book, a national, sustainable fisheries and oceans policy. That was last August. Have you seen this policy, Madam Speaker? No one else in the House has seen it. It is the best kept secret in the minister's back pocket. Here was an opportunity to use UNCED to state the Canadian case, put a policy on the table and it has disappeared.

• (1530)

Let me give a few other interesting facts in the estimates book of the Department of External Affairs. The most important aspect that we can undertake is the legal department right now. We need the best legal minds in this country working out the kind of presenta-