

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the specific report that the hon. member mentions. But I have made it clear to the offshore companies that there will be no fish left in the water that are part of the enterprise allocations of the offshore companies, or they will be very hard pressed in the coming year of tight quotas to ask for those quotas to be reinstated.

At the same time I should point out that the good news report I did see today was to the effect that in the Scotia Fundy region fish landings were up this year to \$336 million in value over last year for the first three quarters.

**Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I think the minister is mixing lobster and scallops in terms of the amounts of fish. We have always had good lobster and scallop seasons until this year when the price went down.

I want to say to the minister that the boats in Gloucester, Boston and Chatham are having record seasons this fall—for example, 70,000 pounds of cod per trip from Georges—while the unharvested quota that the offshore fishermen cannot use in those waters is not being picked up by Canadians. When is the minister's groundfish plan going to help Canadian inshore fishermen instead of helping the Americans?

**Mr. Siddon:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows full well that the Americans do not fish in Canadian waters north of the Georges Bank line.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Siddon:** We take effective enforcement measures to ensure that is the case.

The hon. member knows full well that in the Scotia Fundy region in the first three quarters of this year over-all landings increased in the amount of \$336 million compared with the previous year. That ought to be very good news to her constituents.

**Mr. Speaker:** A single question from the hon. member for Essex—Kent.

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**CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

**Mr. Jerry Pickard (Essex—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the presidents of Heinz, Hunt—Wesson and Campbells confirmed that the free trade deal jeopardizes our

\$15 billion agri-food business. They have stated that tens of thousands of jobs and millions of dollars of equipment are on the chopping block.

Will the minister stop this threat and kill the free trade deal before it destroys agriculture in this country?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows very well that the real problem facing the Canadian food processing sector is high input costs for basic produce and for packaging. It is not free trade.

It would be foolish for Canada to put our economy and our future at risk by closing down the free trade agreement.

• (1520 )

**Mr. Speaker:** There will be a single question from the hon. member for Churchill and a single question from the hon. member for Hochelaga—Maisonneuve.

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**FISHERY**

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Fisheries. According to a report released by his department, groundfish landings in Atlantic Canada have decreased by 9.3 per cent this year. In addition to that there is talk of closure of plants by National Sea Products.

Will the minister, after having a special cabinet committee spend six months on this crisis, finally announce when he is going to do something about this and what direction the government is going to take? After six months with no action, it is time.

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, but as was improperly reported in *The Globe and Mail* this morning, over-all fish landings in the Scotia Fundy region alone were up by \$336 million, while the groundfish landings were down on average 9 per cent because of the decline in quotas that was necessary this year as a result of the groundfish management plan for 1989.

The groundfish management plan for 1990 will be released at the end of December, after the concluding consultations that I will hold with Atlantic provincial fisheries ministers next Thursday. Other appropriate measures about which he inquires will also be announced in the not too distant future.