

## FISHERIES

**Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I have always felt that there was no point in rising if there is nobody to respond. I certainly would take the answer of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs because his minister chairs the special cabinet committee and he might impose on his minister to pay some attention to the crisis that is developing on the east coast.

My question was to the minister on September 28 at which time the minister in his answer stated:

—on my first review of the report—

This is a reference to the Haché committee:

—it appears that in the present year there are no extraordinary circumstances of hardship which are unlike those of previous years with the exception of lower prices and the problems created by exchange rates.

I can only say that for this minister who has been the minister of fisheries now for a number of years cannot, with his experience, say that there are problems in the fishery this year and last year in the groundfishery is incredible. Municipal leaders said on July 11 that probably 12,000 people are affected directly by the groundfish quotas that were in place under this minister's management scheme. They are worried. They know the problems that will develop because there has been no work. This means that there will be larger welfare rolls because people do not have enough stamps to be able to collect unemployment insurance. There is a spin-off effect with lack of work. It means not enough taxes are collected.

• (1810)

The whole community is affected by the fact that this minister will not look at his management plan and say to the people in the southern end of Nova Scotia, "Yes, there is fish in the waters; yes, you should be able to go out and fish them." The municipal leaders are not the only ones. This week, I got a letter from the Yarmouth County Affirmative Action Committee dated September 15, before the minister's answer, which says that because of the problems the federal government has now instituted regulations which have placed thousands of western Nova Scotians on the unemployment lines. Thousands more cannot now qualify for unemployment insurance. Those are two groups that have directed their

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concerns to this government and they have not been listened to.

In the middle of July, after public demonstrations by the plant workers and the fishermen, two provincial ministers came up and met with the minister. We have had nothing as a result of that meeting. They met again with the Haché committee and said that it was the worst of times and that the management plan was not working. Yet, I do not know what it will take for this minister to start believing people like the member for South Shore who has been saying that there has to be a solution. An awful lot of the fishermen have only had six to eight weeks of work, not even enough for unemployment stamps. Today's paper says "Siddon's comments on fishery called unbelievable by industry". This is in *The Chronicle-Herald*:

Glen Wadman,, vice president of the Independent Seafood Producers Association of Nova Scotia, said Wednesday the minister's suggestion that there is no crisis in the fishery is "staggering".

We represent 31 independent fish plants, many of whom have workers that have only worked seven to 10 weeks this year—

"Some of them are worried about having their telephones and electricity cut off. Some have had to take their cars back to the local dealers because they're trying to pay for their homes.

To hear the minister make those kinds of statements— well, it's unbelievable.

Others are saying "Let the minister cut his salary by 30 per cent like he cut the quotas of the inshore fishery by 30 per cent". A longliner says, "Soon, because of the policies, they will be tied up." A longliner should never be tied up because it has a fishery that is selective.

I want to say to this House and to the representative of the government who comes from the west one thing. As the Yarmouth County Affirmative Action Committee says, it is noted, and my hon. colleague over there comes from Alberta, "that the federal government did provide extensive assistance to western farmers when drought struck the prairie provinces. The federal government is directly responsible for providing funding for a state of the art fishing fleet". They feel that if one area of the country is going to be helped by this government, why can the other area not be helped as well.

We have waited since the spring to see if there would be an imaginary fund focused on several times by the government saying that there was going to be help for the east coast. Yet we have a minister who says there are