

Atlantic Canada are protected in this Parliament and in the Government. That is why I take grave and great exception to the remarks of an individual who, in this case, heads National Sea Products, an important fishing company in Atlantic Canada. I am referring to Gordon Cummings and the remarks he made that have been referred to by my colleagues, the Hon. Member for South West Nova (Mr. Comeau) and the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—Highlands—Canso (Mr. O'Neil). Those remarks are to the effect that the Government of Canada has sold out Atlantic Canada. We in Atlantic Canada have supported the Atlantic fishery, and our colleagues in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick have supported Nova Scotia in the establishment of a factory freezer trawler and other initiatives designed to enhance the Atlantic fishery particularly for the benefit of Nova Scotia. For anyone in the position of a director president of a private enterprise company that has drawn on the resources of the Government and people of Canada to say that there is a sell-out of the East Coast fishery is contemptible in the worst degree. We will not stand for that.

If Mr. Cummings wants to stand before the people of Nova Scotia and seek election to this House of Commons where he can represent the views of Atlantic Canada, let him do so. However, if he is going to stand up and say that we are selling out Atlantic Canada, he will have to answer for it. I can tell Mr. Cummings that when he comes to Ottawa to seek assistance for his company, we are only going to consider the interests of the people of Nova Scotia, the employees of the company and those who are employed in the Atlantic fishery. We will not take that kind of nonsense from a business executive who denies the interest of Atlantic Canada and the people of Atlantic Canada in favour of the profits of his particular company. We are here to protect Atlantic Canada and we will protect it for all the people, but mostly from the Gordon Cummings.

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, if my distinguished friend from the great City of Montreal does not want to participate—

**Mr. Prud'homme:** I did not say that. You continue, I will listen.

**Mr. Forrestall:** My intention was only to thank the staff and express appreciation for all their efforts. I also want to express appreciation for this motion having come forward this evening. I suggest to the House and my hon. friends from both the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party that perhaps they have now learned a very fundamental lesson about our distinguished Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) who talked about parliamentary reform and the rights of back-benchers to make their mark. This has been a free and open debate and I think it has been very enlightening.

I wish only to commend the House for the level of debate and commend those who participated for their thoughtfulness and very deep concern about the issue that is before us. Above

all, I want to thank the staff who have been here with us so patiently for these almost six hours.

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Mr. Speaker, of course, I will join with my friend who just spoke in thanking all of the staff and yourself for your patience.

[Translation]

In fact, my main reason for taking part in this debate is that I would like to make a few comments on some of the speeches given in the House this evening.

● (0150)

[English]

I must say, Sir, that having been here since eight o'clock, like those who are still in the House, it is very enlightening for an urban Member of Parliament to get acquainted with a very important issue. I do not want to be facetious, but I will say I was impressed with the speech of the last speaker, the Hon. Member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby), which I listened to on the television in the lobby. I am sorry there were not more Hon. Members in the House because it is a very important issue. We could have learned a lot.

**Mr. Forrestall:** You were the only Liberal in the House for four hours.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** If my friend wants to be—

**Mr. Forrestall:** You were the only Liberal in the House for four hours.

[Translation]

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Mr. Speaker, I repeat, if the Hon. Member wants to be disagreeable, as usual, he knows perfectly well that I can be even more so—

[English]

And a lot more than he, I can assure the Hon. Member. I am making comments now and I do not think he should be *désagréable*, as we say in French. I have shown courtesy to every Hon. Member tonight. I have listened because I am interested. He cannot blame me for being interested in learning about a very important subject. I was present—

**Mr. Forrestall:** You were not present.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Mr. Speaker, I wish either the gentleman would leave the room or behave, as I know he always does.

**Mr. Forrestall:** I will come back and challenge you on a point of order.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** I have been in the House of Commons—

**Mr. Forrestall:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. With respect to comments or otherwise of Hon. Members in the Chamber, my distinguished friend has not been here. He has not been in this Chamber. There has not been a member of the Liberal Party in this Chamber for the last three or four hours.