

Government Orders

To the degree that I understand it, which is not a very great degree, I love opera houses. I went to one myself one time.

An hon. member: What opera?

Mr. Simmons: The gentleman from Provencher, from Manitoba, is an absolute delight. He knows I feel this. He is in absolute delight because even as I talk about a matter that serious, he can see the human side to it. That is what I like about him. He never ever loses his perspective, despite the crowd he is tangled up with over there. How he stays there, I do not know. That he keeps his perspective while there, I admire. He wants to know what opera. I shall tell him.

I have been to one opera in my life. It was last Sunday. It was a good one. Laugh all you want. It was a good opera. It was called *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, a special children's Christmas opera. I recommend it to everyone. It is about the Three Wise Men.

Madam Speaker, I know what you are thinking. You are thinking what has this got to do with the fishery. I was asking myself the same question. I think you will agree that I am allowed to say that I have just achieved something that nobody else has ever achieved in this House. I finally got the attention of the NDP. They might not understand what I am saying, but it appears they are listening from the noises coming from that corner.

As I was saying to my friends in the NDP and elsewhere, this government has treated the fishery very, very callously. I now want to make the distinction that I implied earlier. It is not because either the gentleman from St. John's East, the parliamentary secretary, or the gentleman from New Brunswick, who was minister of fisheries, has a hate on for the fishery. These fellows plead the case day and night and plead it well. But for them, the fishery would be in an even worse state than it is. They plead the case well.

They know the problem, but they are too loyal to the party to admit it very openly. The problem is the same problem that the gentleman from St. John's West is having, the Minister for International Trade who with his known candour is less secretive about his view of matters than the gentleman from St. John's East. He is known to be completely fed up with this entire approach to rural Canada. I predict that his days are numbered in that cabinet, not because he will be flicked out but because he cannot stomach it much longer. I would suggest that he

will not be there come May or June. I will tell you that now, Madam Speaker. He is finding out what the gentleman from St. John's East and the minister of fisheries are also finding out, that this government has an agenda that excludes, that precludes, that shuts out forever, as long as it is in power, anything to do with improving infrastructure, way of life and opportunity in rural Canada. That is the problem right there.

I do not know how that can be changed except through change in the government. I think the people of Beauséjour and York North gave notice yesterday that they are prepared to do that. They spoke for all of Canada yesterday when they said that they were prepared to change the government as soon as the government gives them the opportunity to change it. That will come in time.

My fear, as it relates to fisheries, as it relates to rural Canada generally, and as it relates to the kind of country that I have come to love and want to continue to help build, is that by the time this crowd is turfed out of office in the next two or three years there will not be enough left of Canada for anybody to govern. The Canada we knew is fast disappearing. The east-west ties are being broken down whether we are talking about the pulverising of CBC last week or the other issues I have mentioned already. There will not be enough of this country left to govern, I say to the minister of energy. In addition to saying his prayers every night, he must cry himself to sleep when he thinks about this. There will not be enough left of this country to govern. My friend from South Shore—

Mr. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): South West Nova.

Mr. Simmons: How I ever got her confused with the member for South Shore, I will never know. My apologies to both, but mainly to her. It is a matter I am not likely to be soon forgiven for, either. I know she has an important speech coming on and I should not delay her.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we support the principle of the bill. We have done it from the beginning of its legislative path to this House. We support the principle. We have a few difficulties with it. These are well known to the parliamentary secretary. We have