

Government Orders

Does the hon. member know what the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act is? That is the question. The Coastal Fisheries Protection Act is the act that governs the fisheries. It governs what happens around the coastline of Canada. It covers licensing. It covers what boats do. It covers what boats cannot do and what they can do. It is under that act that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans gives permission to the Halifax regional office and the St. John's regional office to issue the very licences for fishing that all of these foreign nations get. It is under that act. And the member stands up there and says: "Oh, but his concerns are covered under that act". That is why I am talking about it. It is under that act that they get the licences. Now it is under this act they are exempt.

It is rather interesting. That covers the hundred FFTs, the factory freezer trawlers, off our coast. There are another 20 or 30 of them out there. The second clause covers them. It says that also exempt are ocean research activity foreign vessels commissioned by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

There were 17 such licences issued this year by Halifax DFO and they were out there fishing various things: mackerel, herring, a little bit of cod up north. There was not one observer aboard these vessels, not one representative of the Government of Canada aboard one of those vessels in section D because they are exempt from the observer program of the Canadian government, and we wonder where our fishery has gone.

Section B of this act here exempts even those vessels that are in Canadian waters. Come on, foreign vessels, you can have a free-for-all here. It is only Canadians who are prevented from going out and fishing.

Mr. Ray Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that this legislation today deals with many concerns that we have with coastal transportation. I would like to put a couple of comments to the hon. member since he shares a piece of geography that is very similar to the one I represent. I would like to deal with some of the communities in that area and one in particular.

Our concern for this government's absolute neglect of coastal transportation starts basically with the cancellation of the northern tax benefits which has absolutely shafted people who live in your communities and in my community. To put it down in this transportation problem is that food in the community of Ocean Falls costs

300 per cent to 600 per cent more than food you can buy in Vancouver or in Ottawa. A two litre container of milk costs \$6 if you are lucky and can get it fresh. Everything else, fruit, vegetables and things along that line are almost unobtainable fresh. Automobiles: to remove an automobile or take an automobile in is \$600 each way. Health care: if you are lucky you get a doctor once a month if the weather permits. Dentists: one of the residents I was talking to the other day had an emergency, a toothache, that absolutely incapacitated him, a \$500 charter in and out, \$52 for a tooth extraction. It is absolutely paralysed because of the coastal transportation policy of this government.

Air traffic to Vancouver is more than \$500. You can fly to England or Hawaii cheaper than you can actually move from Ocean Falls to Vancouver, Bella Bella to Vancouver, from Kitsault or the Klemtu area to Vancouver.

The coastal transportation policy of this government is nothing short of disgusting. For someone who managed to pick up a job in that desolate area it took \$10,000 to move their household furniture, themselves and their kids into that area because of the coastal transportation policy of this government.

In each one of those communities I mentioned, Bella Bella, the Klemtu or Ocean Falls, the Department of Transport has said it is no longer interested in building wharfs to move goods in and out and passengers in and out. They say that in the 80 year life cycle which is up in 15 years, no more wharfs. Their highways are gone. Their transportation is gone.

This bill today on coastal transportation has probably got—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member for Gander—Grand Falls.

Mr. Baker: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I totally concur with what the hon. member said, especially as it relates to British Columbia and the east coast of Canada. I want to alert him to the fact that the critic for transport for the Liberal Party, the official party spokesman for transport for the Liberal Party, stood up in this House a few moments ago and made reference to something that every member of Parliament should get a copy of. It is the new charges to be imposed, as he said, by Transport Canada on every ship that uses the Canadian coastline because now they are going to have to pay a fee for using the navigational aids, which includes buoys.