

Mr. Anderson: Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to answer that question. I obviously do not want to talk out this motion. Very briefly, I am suggesting there is a need for a totally co-ordinated, overall view of shipping and maritime activities in British Columbia, not just of one group or another. There should be one organization to cater to the needs of people in British Columbia whether they are involved in the pleasure boat industry, the commercial fishery, the coast guard, coastal trade or maritime trade between nations. Instead of a piecemeal approach, we need an over-all approach which will provide a facility to deal with all these questions, not just one small segment of the problem.

Mr. Huntington: Mr. Speaker, the Canadian power squadron is in place through which most amateur yachtsmen have taken extensive training. Most people who use the water are quite skilled in their hobby. The hon. member did not answer the question why his government allowed the Indian Brotherhood training program for fishermen on the north coast of Vancouver Island to lapse, particularly in light of his concern for these things.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order. The time allotted to the consideration of private members' business has expired. I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock p.m.

At 6.14 p.m. the House took recess.

● (2002)

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FISHING AND RECREATIONAL HARBOURS ACT

MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN HARBOURS

The House resumed, from Friday, February 3, 1978, consideration of the motion of Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent) that Bill C-2, respecting the administration and development of certain fishing and recreational harbours in Canada, be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I only have four minutes left in which to conclude the remarks I began last Friday. I will do my best with the time which remains to me.

As the minister knows, the importance of the fisheries to Newfoundland cannot be overemphasized. At least 20,000 people are directly employed in the industry as fishermen, fish plant workers or trawler crews. This figure must be seen

Fishing and Recreational Harbours

against the background of a total labour force of 190,000. So the industry has a gigantic impact on Newfoundland. If we use a multiplier factor of only 1.5, another 30,000 people depend on the fishing industry. There are whole sections in Newfoundland—I would say two-thirds of the province—in which people would not be able to live at all in the absence of a fishing industry.

In the last few months the minister has become too dictatorial, too rigid. He may be changing that attitude somewhat; I understand he had a meeting in Halifax on Friday with the provincial ministers, who seemed to be satisfied. Perhaps the minister has learned his lesson and will, in future, be less dictatorial and rigid than he was in 1977. I hope this is the case, because Newfoundland will not be satisfied with any situation in which the federal government dictates to the province how, when or whether it will survive. I should like the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry to consider the major issues which are now before the country affecting the fishing industry.

My final point has to do with the community of St. Lawrence. A few days ago the fluorspar mine there closed. Alcan moved out. The Canadian government did nothing to pressure Alcan to keep that mine open. It did nothing to encourage Alcan to remain in St. Lawrence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I find difficulty in following the hon. member's remarks. I cannot see how they relate at this point to the bill before us.

Mr. Crosbie: I will tell you how, Mr. Speaker. Alcan has abandoned the mine and there are now 300 people unemployed in St. Lawrence. In these circumstances the proposal has gone from St. Lawrence to the government asking for assistance in the establishment of a fish plant so that the unemployed miners could work in the fish plant and as fishermen. There is a fine port at St. Lawrence. The fishery is the only way in which these people can now make a living. A proposal has been made by Fishery Products Limited, supported by the Newfoundland government, supported by the St. Lawrence committee which is looking after the unemployed, that a fish plant be built in the town. Some assistance from DREE would be needed and an application has been made to Ottawa. Help is also needed from the fisheries department, because this is to be not just an inshore plant taking fish from inshore fishermen but a year-round operation taking fish from offshore vessels. This would involve Portuguese fishing boats and the minister would have to license them to land fish at the plant before the scheme could go forward.

Two weeks ago an official of DREE said the federal government was a long way from making any decision on this proposed fish plant. According to remarks of his which have been quoted, whether Portuguese vessels would be licensed to land fish at St. Lawrence was a question which was puzzling the minister. I would point out that the unemployed people of St. Lawrence are unemployed in part because the federal government did nothing to oblige or encourage Alcan to continue its operations in a mine which is still a profit-maker,