

Saltfish Act

and leave a little fellow with a 19-foot boat trying to make a living on the great northern peninsula unable to get insurance through a normal insurance company.

● (1150)

I see the Minister nodding his head. He is perhaps going to be dealing with this, and I know he is going to try to overcome what the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) laid down as being the law of this country. It is wrong for a small group of people from on high to cast down his policies without consulting the very people they should be consulting in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell).

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There are no questions for the first three speeches. However, if we have unanimous consent, the Hon. Minister may ask.

Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Waddell: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell).

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I listened with a great deal of interest to the remarks made by the Hon. Member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Baker). I thought for a moment he was going to ask for unanimous consent to go on for another 40 minutes. We certainly would have enjoyed listening to him for another 40 minutes.

He used a phrase I have never heard and I thank him for teaching it to me. I imagine it must be an East Coast phrase because we do not have it on the West Coast. He referred to the jigs and reels, and somehow through the jigs and reels in a debate on the Saltfish Corporation he managed to speak about *Greenpeace*, welfare, unemployment insurance, taxation, the communist manifesto and finally insurance. I congratulate him for doing a good job on behalf of his constituents in getting through the jigs and the reels into the things that concern his constituents. I gather he has very many poor people in his riding, particularly the inshore fishermen on the north coast of Newfoundland, and I learned something from his speech.

I have noticed that Mr. Richard Cashin and the officers and members of the Newfoundland Fishermen, Food and Allied Workers Union have also been speaking out and working hard on behalf of those people. They are quite disadvantaged compared to we rich city dwellers in other parts of Canada. The Hon. Member talked about the syndrome of going down the road, this time fishermen from Newfoundland, to Toronto, to Fort McMurray and to other places in Canada. I am sorry that sort of thing happens in this country. I wish it did not. I am sure the Hon. Member and the Minister would agree that

we should be putting together a fisheries policy to help those people stay and thrive.

I have just returned from Europe. I spent some time talking with people in the European Economic Community, particularly the Danes and to a lesser extent the Greeks, about the fishing industry. When I see what the Danes have done, especially with their industry and how they have concentrated on quality, we have something to learn. The Hon. Member mentioned in his speech how important quality is, how important the product is and how important it is to sell in foreign markets. We have a lot to learn from them, and I hope we can.

On behalf of my Party, I have a few things I want to say about this Bill. The Bill seeks to amend the Saltfish Act in order to increase the Canadian Saltfish Corporation's borrowing power from \$30 million to \$50 million. The last time an increase in its borrowing authority was authorized was in 1980, as we heard from the Minister, when it went up from \$15 million to \$30 million. This is a simple amendment seeking to put the borrowing authority up to \$50 million.

I want to say something about the background of the Corporation as I understand it. The Corporation was established in 1970 by the then Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Jack Davis, a fellow British Columbian. This Corporation has the exclusive right to market saltfish produced in Newfoundland, Labrador and the lower north shore of Quebec. It is a non-profit Corporation which was established for the purpose of improving the earnings of the primary producers of cured saltfish. What is important to note here, Mr. Speaker, and it is important for Conservative Members in the House to follow this, is that before the establishment of this Corporation the saltfish industry was in a shambles, in much the same way as the freshwater fish industry was in the West before the establishment of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation in the Prairies. In other words, the private sector—the market here—was unable to operate effectively and efficiently in the fishing industry and so the Government set up this non-profit corporation. We seem to be going in reverse these days and I will come to that in a minute. The market was not working for the fishermen so the Government stepped in and set up this non-profit Corporation.

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Fraser) said in his speech, to quote what he said a few minutes ago: "The record shows it; the Corporation has done a commendable job". I hope the Minister and the Government generally will not take corporations like Petro-Canada and other government corporations that have done a commendable job, to put it mildly, and out of pure ideology get rid of them. This is an example.

The Saltfish Corporation has been very successful. It has turned a profit every year since its creation, with the one exception of 1983-84. The annual report for this year, as far as I know, has yet to be published and the loss for the year 1983-84 is not yet known.

It should be noted that since this is a non-profit Corporation, any surpluses made by the Corporation are rebated to the fishermen as annual dividends. In 1983-84 the Saltfish Corpo-