

policies of the minister. Those policies are certainly detrimental to the whole Atlantic region.

I saw the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion here earlier, and I am sure he would agree that these jobs are very important to the Atlantic region. If it is going to be the policy of the government to consolidate fishing into a small number of pockets here and there and centralize everything—it seems to be the case with the policy of going along with processors—certainly the Atlantic economy is going to suffer.

The Prime Minister, who is here now, said earlier that he is interested in small town Canada and that he wants to see it flourish. I think the Prime Minister would agree that in order for it to flourish there must be jobs for people. The situation with regard to squid deserves much more attention than the minister's department has given it.

In former times the question of Korean hake was studied. It was determined that there needed to be some assistance when the fact that Korean hake could not be sold on the United States market was evident. The former government took this problem into consideration, and the problem was met with the assistance of the government. The situation with regard to squid at the present time is not very different from the situation with regard to Korean hake a few years ago.

There are very important ramifications to what is going on at the present time. I received overtures—and I am sure the government has as well—from the province of Nova Scotia regarding the problem of the fish catch on the Scotian shelf. The province of Nova Scotia says that the fish stocks in the Scotian shelf are depleting, and because they are depleting the province of Nova Scotia is asking that large vessels be brought into the Gulf. The province of Nova Scotia is saying that if those vessels do not come into the Gulf, the Gulf fisheries will cease to exist for Nova Scotia fishermen. You cannot tell that to the small fishermen of Cape Breton, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland or Gaspé.

Mr. LeBlanc: Or Pictou County.

Mr. MacLellan: Or Pictou County. These men are making good use of the fish stocks in the Gulf. These are stocks on which they depend because they do not have vessels to go the Labrador coast or to the Grand Banks. The large fish companies do. They have the wherewithal. In fact large vessels from Nova Scotia were fishing on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland long before that became the industry it is in Newfoundland today. I am very worried that a precedent will be created by the minister's policies and that the minister's policy of allocating certain grounds for particular provinces and particular areas is going to make the case for Newfoundland when its representatives say that they want complete control over the fisheries of that province.

Mr. McGrath: I am going to do just the opposite.

Mr. MacLellan: The minister will never convince me with his policies. This is a very dangerous situation.

Mr. McGrath: I agree with you.

Supply

Mr. MacLellan: That is very good; I am glad the minister agrees. I accept his acknowledgment on that. I appreciate it, and I think the inshore fishermen of Nova Scotia appreciate it. We hope that the policies of the minister will reflect his thinking in this regard. This is a very serious situation. The policies of the government are creating very bad precedents.

The fish stocks in the Gulf belong to the people who have been fishing those stocks, regardless of what province they live in. This is an historical right of these people, and they do not want to start a competition in the Atlantic region. They do not want a war, literally, among the provinces as to who can fish in what jurisdiction.

Mr. McGrath: Agreed.

Mr. MacLellan: I would like to see the present situation remain.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I have a question to direct to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans with regard to an article which appears today in *The Citizen* which refers to a statement by Dr. Harold Schiff, who is Canada's foremost ozone expert and who has been acting as chairman of a U.S. National Academy of Sciences committee studying the fluorocarbon problem.

According to Dr. Schiff, the ozone depletion problem caused by the emission of fluorocarbons is much worse than anyone expected. After a three-year study it has been determined that apparently it is twice what it was thought to be in 1976.

I realize that the minister is not in a position to give any kind of an answer today on what his department is doing about one particular part of the fluorocarbon problem, the possible effect the increase in ultraviolet rays caused by the breakdown of the ozone zone has on photoplankton which, as the minister well knows, is a nutritional mainstay for fish and other ocean creatures. Since this is a problem which affects several ministries—it affects human health, so the Department of National Health and Welfare would be involved; it affects agriculture; it affects the environment; and there are implications for consumer affairs—would the minister undertake to get together with his associates in cabinet with a view to making sure that all the expertise that is available in Canada which could be working on this problem will take a look at it?

Could we have an undertaking that the extremely competent fisheries research establishment will take a look, if it is not already, at the question of possible dangers to photoplankton? With regard to this threat would the minister undertake to consider with his cabinet colleagues a legal ban on the use of fluorocarbons as propellants, as well as their use in the spraying of polyurethane insulation? Would he undertake to do both those things?

● (1510)

Mr. McGrath: Of course, Mr. Chairman, I can give an affirmative reply to the hon. gentleman. In so doing I should tell him, however, that co-ordinating responsibilities in this area—and I have read the article to which the hon. member