

constitute an arbitrary, unjustified or disguised restriction to trade.

Eventually this action will go before the dispute settlement mechanism of the free trade agreement where, if the west coast fishing dispute results are any indication, Canada will have to look elsewhere for markets or be forced to increase carapace size to meet American requirements.

Not only are we being blackmailed into increasing the minimum size of landed lobster by the Americans. Are we to be subject to American fisheries inspectors in our canneries to inspect lobster meat going into cans destined for the American market? How else will the Americans know what size the lobsters are that go into cans?

There are serious implications for our sovereignty if the congressional amendment becomes law. We will have the U.S. dictating to us what our conservation policy will be after mismanaging theirs. We could have American inspectors in our plants telling us what we can or cannot process.

What is our government doing to head off this impending disaster? What assurances are they giving our lobster fishermen that their interests will be looked after? The indications are not good that the Canadian government can be trusted to support our fishermen.

Let us take, for example, the words of our Prime Minister when he visited President Bush at Kennebunkport in Maine in September past. Our Prime Minister was quoted as saying that Bush "advanced some persuasive arguments that I have instructed my office to begin examining. This matter which is very important to the United States will be resolved in much the same manner in which we seek to resolve others; in a friendly and constructive spirit." He continued to say: "The President was big on lobster today, I was big on pork."

The Prime Minister did not say: "This matter is very important to Canadian east coast fishermen who stand to lose \$100 million." No, he said: "This matter is very important to the United States".

Not only are Canadian fishermen fed up with the minister of fisheries who refuses to deal with our crab fishermen, banned our tuna fishermen from traditional waters, seems incapable of policing foreign fishing quotas which are destroying our northern cod stocks, but

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sadly east coast fishermen cannot rely on the Prime Minister either to look after our interests.

Canadians, it has been said, are the last boy scouts in the international market-place. Canada cannot allow this U.S. move to curb our exports of lobster. GATT should be advised immediately. We won there before and we can win there again. Our Prime Minister and our Minister of Fisheries and our Minister of International Trade must take the initiative now to stand up and fight for our fishermen.

**Mr. Reid:** Madam Speaker, I thought perhaps it would be helpful or appropriate to in fact answer my hon. friend's question about this problem that we face in terms of carapace size and the action in the United States.

As I think the Prime Minister has quite clearly indicated in this House—I could stand corrected—on October 6, he made it very clear that he had given specific instructions that our ambassador make strong representation to the Government of the United States. Of course that has been done in a diplomatic note as of I think October 10 where we have made it clear that we do not support this action.

There is no justification on conservation grounds for prohibiting the import of lobsters legally caught in Canadian waters. These imports in no way jeopardize U.S. conservation regime for lobster stocks within their own waters. Therefore we feel strongly that we must protest and we have done so. I think we feel strongly that our case is right. I just want to reassure my friend that this government will continue to pursue this matter in the interests of Atlantic lobster fishermen.

• (1640)

**Mr. McGuire:** Madam Speaker, I am very happy to hear those remarks from the hon. member. The whole basis of the American action to use the excuse of conservation to limit our imports is totally irrelevant. I do not see how it can ever stand. I am very happy that the hon. member has assured us that the government is fighting this and will be protecting and standing up for our fishermen in Atlantic Canada.

**Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the hon. member. When we deal with the lobster problem—maybe the hon. member can correct me—but I cannot recall that the size of lobsters have changed over the past 15 years as to what is being