

Government Orders

• (1700)

I am sure the hon. member has not checked with his colleague from the province of Quebec. We do not know where he stands on any of the issues. Let the hon. member be very clear in his own mind that the free trade agreement has not only caused great problems for the people of British Columbia, but it has caused great problems for all Canadians, including parts of Atlantic Canada, Ontario, as well as the province of Quebec.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Resuming debate. It is now the New Democratic Party's turn. Its members have agreed to split their 20 minutes in two 10-minute speeches.

[*English*]

I recognize the hon. member for Skeena for 10 minutes.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the debate. The non-confidence motion in the Prime Minister and the government says:

That this House express its loss of confidence in the Prime Minister—

It is quite clear from what we heard in terms of the lead speech on the government side by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, if he is the heaviest hitter out of the largest cabinet in Canadian history and if that was the speech that Canadians are to read and listen to as to why that Prime Minister and that party should be supported and stay in government, it is just not possible. The buffoonery and the insults that were tossed around this House by the minister of fisheries indicates that even in cabinet there is no longer any confidence in the Prime Minister. I am sure that when the Prime Minister reads that speech he will be somewhat less than amused to see that is what the cabinet decided to do and to put up in terms of support for him.

This is the same Prime Minister whose entire legacy from his years in the private sector, particularly with Iron Ore, was to leave Schefferville a ghost town. That seems to be the growing legacy that my colleagues have touched on here today: growing unemployment, growing bankruptcies, growing losses in the manufacturing sector, and growing losses in the fisheries sector. A thou-

sand farmers who lost their farms in the first six months of this year in Saskatchewan alone. Whether it is the free trade agreement, how he and his cabinet have handled GATT matters, the high dollar, the rising interest rates or the real concerns of the people of this country, the Prime Minister is pursuing a pathetic policy and vision.

I would like to spend sometime on the environment. This is a government, clearly from its record, that puts economic considerations ahead of the environment. It puts political considerations ahead of the environment and always puts profit considerations ahead of the environment. This is leading to the accelerated destruction of Canada's nature and well-being and the hope and vision of young people about this marvellous part of the globe.

Despite the Prime Minister's endorsement of the Brundtland report at the United Nations itself and his own back-patting and back-patting of his colleagues under the pretence of implementing sustainable development, I think one will find from my remarks that I can put all of that to a lie, to use the minister of fisheries, language.

The Prime Minister and the Tory party have proven to be true believers in the philosophy that the environment is free and that resource exploitation is unlimited. They have failed to understand that it is no longer the limits to growth; it is now the growth of limits world-wide. Tragically Canada's environment has been substantially damaged by decisions which pay only lip service to the true cost accounting of projects large and small.

In the Atlantic part of Canada the fisheries resource has been overexploited, not by the inshore fishermen, not by those from Newfoundland, New Brunswick or Nova Scotia, or even those few from Prince Edward Island and the province of Quebec. What has happened is that irresponsible political and management decisions have tossed thousands of fishermen and shore workers out of work.

On the B.C. coast—it is too bad the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans chose to leave before Question Period was over—there have been forced closures in terms of prawn, shrimp, crab, abalone, clams, and now several species of not only ground fish but anadromous species due to both pollution and mismanagement.