

particularly when it comes to dealing with something that is as important as fisheries is to Atlantic Canada.

As my colleague from Burgeo pointed out, there are literally hundreds—I believe 1,300—communities in Atlantic Canada which are essentially dependent on fisheries. They are, in effect, a special kind of one-industry towns. It is more to these people than just an industry in the classic sense, it is a way of life. They have seen these cycles happen before. Many of them are frustrated. Many of them think that their government does not care. This is not true.

This government does care. The minister of fisheries cares. We are doing everything we can to cope with a very difficult situation. As more support is required, this government will come forward and provide that support as we have in the past to other sectors in Canada which were falling on difficult times.

**Mr. MacLellan:** Madam Speaker, as the hon. minister knows, being the minister responsible for ACOA, other than the funds that he has, there are a great many other things that need to be done and can be done in Atlantic Canada. One of those things is funding for small craft harbours.

The lack of fish is one very serious problem, but it is not going to be a problem for the fishermen in northern Cape Breton and Dingwall, Pleasant Bay and Bay St. Lawrence if some dredging is not done because they are not going to be able to get their boats in and out of the harbours. It is really becoming critical. Unless these fishermen can fish with catamarans, in another year or two they are going to be completely out of luck.

I would ask for the minister's comments on what I think is a very important concern about a service that must be provided.

**Mr. MacKay:** Madam Speaker, I agree with my colleague that it is imperative that the proper infrastructure and assistance be given to fishermen so they can bring their catch ashore and have a safe place to anchor their vessels. He knows there is never enough money for this sort of thing, but I remind him that in the not too distant past, this minister of fisheries spearheaded an attempt to raise an extraordinary amount of money, I think close to

### *Supply*

\$100 million at the time, to do a lot of this kind of dredging infrastructure that was required.

I understand what he is saying and I undertake to him that I will see what can be done to work to allocate more funds. This is something that is very worth while, and to the extent that our resources will permit it, I will make an extra effort to see if we cannot be of further assistance.

**Mr. Reid:** Madam Speaker, the minister has talked about the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the number of tremendous things that have been done in support of the development of the fishery.

One of the things that I frankly had some difficulty with in dealing with ACOA on, and one of the very few, I must admit, has been my attempt repeatedly to find support for resources to develop fish plants. Quite a number of times, I get asked for my support and obviously I give it, but there have been a number of occasions and I think of one in particular in the community of Marysvale where a young couple had put together a proposal and were prepared to do a tremendous amount of work in developing this fish plant.

I wonder if the minister could comment a little bit about ACOA's role in the development of fish plants and some of the things that they have had to contend with in this area.

**Mr. MacKay:** Madam Speaker, it is difficult to decide sometimes whether it is feasible to support further capacity in an industry where there seems to be a shortage of supply, but we like to look at these things in our ministry on a case-by-case basis. I understand the frustrations of my colleague and other members who would like to see more ACOA assistance and the mandate of ACOA widened and extended. I will take that as a representation and see what can be done.

**Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova):** Madam Speaker, I hope the minister pays that much attention to everybody's clothes. I am sure that was not the most important thing that I said here today, the statement made by my clothes. I think that it was so inappropriate. I say there are people hurting, never mind what people are wearing.

I would like to ask the minister how he relates to Premier John Buchanan's statement on Friday last that