

*Supply*

As I was also saying this morning, he should explain why the department on the one hand issues press releases saying that it has to follow the Law of the Sea in giving quotas to foreign nations inside the 200-mile zone and then turns around on the other hand and says: "We have no jurisdiction over transporter stocks because the Law of the Sea was never ratified by the 60 nations to make it law".

I hope the minister will be able to explain that tomorrow afternoon to those bright young law students who will, as I understand it, have an opportunity to question the minister immediately following his address.

The issue is very clear. Canadians are not able to fish because the government says there is no fish inside the 200-mile zone, the major reason being that the foreigners are taking it outside the 200-mile zone. Yet the Government of Canada is able to give them cod quotas in 2G, 2H and 3N-O off the minister's riding. It was able to give tuna quotas a couple of weeks ago to Japanese vessels, to give them squid quotas off Nova Scotia, to give them mackerel quotas off Sydney Bight, to give them the quotas of what the minister and the department claims are under-utilized species to Canada. There is only one under-utilized species in this country under this government, and that is the fishermen and the fish plant workers of eastern Canada.

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Madam Speaker, I want to compliment my hon. colleague from Gander—Grand Falls. I watched his performance and his involvement in the fishing industry long before I became a member of this House and I share, along with all my fellow Newfoundlanders and Atlantic Canadians, a great respect for the hon. member, who is something more than a folk hero and a great champion of the fishing cause in Newfoundland. I compliment him on his very substantive presentation.

I have heard him speak at length, both in Question Period and presentations in the House, on a fascinating subject, the so-called under-utilized species that has been caught in Canada, exported to another country and then comes back to Canada in a secondary processed fashion at a much higher price to the chagrin of fishermen and plant workers. It comes back to Canadians so

that we have to buy the fish that we cannot catch because of the so-called legal implications of the Law of the Sea.

I am fascinated by that subject and I would like to ask the hon. member if he could give us a couple of more minutes on this aspect of the dreadful subject of foreign overfishing.

**Mr. Baker:** Madam Speaker, the hon. member is absolutely correct. As he was speaking, I could just imagine what the longlinermen here in Ottawa are thinking today. Here we have the Japanese who have just received seven large ship licences for tuna. Bluefin tuna are an endangered species today in the northwest Atlantic. They got five times the quota from this government that Newfoundlanders or Nova Scotians got within our 200-mile zone.

Out in 3M, that great spawning ground that was a recognized area of spawning called the Flemish Cap, outside the 200-mile zone, the Government of Canada lifted the moratorium last year for the first time in years and gave foreigners 12,900 tonnes and gave Canada 100 tonnes.

**An hon. member:** Wow.

**Mr. Baker:** The point being that I am not saying Canada should have been allowed the 12,900 tonnes. I am saying that nobody should have been given any quota out there in that spawning ground.

In answer to the hon. member's question, when you examine the figures from customs, you will see that the very type of fish allocated is under-utilized inside the 200-mile zone. That same type of fish is imported from every country that is given a quota inside our 200-mile zone, every country that violates the law outside. We also import the same fish back into Canada: Korea, Atlantic cod; Chile, Atlantic cod, brought back into our country. We are importing so much fish today that in the past eight months we imported from the EEC countries one third of the total amount of fish we export to them.

I will conclude with this. We even import from four nations to which we give fish aid, foreign aid. We also import some fish back from them. That is how serious the situation has become.

Perhaps the minister should think about this and say that we will forbid the imports of Atlantic cod from places like Korea and Chile.