

S.O. 29

tell them to be reasonable. The Government has licensed 10 factory freezer trawlers from the French metropolitan fleet for the south coast. He has licensed another factory freezer trawler from St. Pierre and Miquelon. He has licensed five wet fish trawlers from St. Pierre and Miquelon to fish on the south coast of Newfoundland. He says they have assigned them a quota of 6,400 metric tonnes. Last year, according to the Minister's figures, those particular boats took 17,000 tonnes in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Minister has told us tonight that they took 26,000 tonnes on the south coast of Newfoundland. Therefore, they took 43,000 tonnes.

Mr. Siddon: Quit exaggerating.

Mr. Baker: The entire quota for the south coast of Newfoundland is 41,000 tonnes. The Minister has given the French fleet enough capacity in Canadian licences to overfish the total allowable catch for the entire south coast of Newfoundland.

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Baker: As though that were not bad enough, in this agreement with the French the Government has given a quota of what we call northern codstock, 2J+3KL. That is cod fish along the east coast of Newfoundland, the northeast coast of Newfoundland, and off the Labrador coast.

This year the Canadian vessels have had their quotas reduced. The fishermen on the northeast and east coasts of Newfoundland and on the Labrador coast have been told that the amount of fishing to take place there this year must be reduced because the Canadian Government biologists say that the stocks are down.

When the Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) was the Minister of Fisheries in Newfoundland he stood in the Newfoundland legislature and said that the fish stock in 2J+3KL should never be touched beyond the needs of the people who live in the immediate area. He explained that fish migrate. In the winter time they are offshore and they come inshore in the summer time when fishermen can catch them. The federal Government had reduced the quota for that entire area. The fishermen and the companies did not like it, but they swallowed it because that is what the biologists said.

Now the federal Government has turned around and the Minister asks why Newfoundlanders, the fishermen, the workers on the offshore boats, and the fish plant owners are so angry. After having been told that their quota must be reduced, the federal Government has given a quota in that very same area to a foreign nation. One can understand why Newfoundlanders are angry.

As though that were not enough, three weeks ago the federal Government informed boat owners in Newfoundland that they were not allowed to go into the area which covers the entire south coast of Newfoundland and extends out 200 miles. Newfoundland boats are not allowed down there this year. Longliner operators were told that they cannot go back to 3PS this year. They were informed of that three weeks ago.

Imagine Newfoundlanders not being allowed to go back to the south coast of Newfoundland.

We have now learned, of course, that the Government has issued all of the factory freezer trawler licences which the French metropolitan fleet wants for the south coast of Newfoundland where the Newfoundlanders are not allowed to go. I am sure you would say to yourself, Mr. Speaker, that that is terrible.

In addition to that, in the great wisdom of the Minister for Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) the Government has told all Canadian fishermen that for the first time in their lives in 1987 they are not allowed to fish on the northern part of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.

• (2100)

We have the northeast coast of Newfoundland having a quota cut-back for Newfoundland; we have the south coast of Newfoundland where they are no longer allowed to go; now the Government of Canada says they are not allowed to put their boats into the northern part of the Grand Banks. It is incredible. There are no offshore boats allowed either, including from Nova Scotia from where they came before. In 1987, for the first time, National Sea Products, Fishery Products International and every other company cannot go to the nose of the Grand Banks. The Minister says that there is an over-reaction in Newfoundland to these announcements. It is not the French who are down on the nose of the Grand Banks. It is the Americans, and now the Portuguese, the Spanish and the Koreans.

Recently I asked the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Deputy Minister why these nations are allowed there when Newfoundland boats are not. The Minister said: "We made the proposal to NAFO, the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization, that all nations should now leave the nose of the Grand Banks for 1987 for conservation reasons". I asked: "Why is the American fleet down there now?" The Minister said: "They are not members of NAFO". I asked why the Spanish and the Portuguese are fishing there, since they are members of NAFO. The Minister said: "They are members of NAFO but they are also members of the EEC, which is a member of NAFO, but the rules of NAFO state that if you object to a motion from another country you do not have to follow that motion". I asked: "Is there any nation other than Canada that is not allowed to go to the nose of the Grand Banks?" He said: "I do not know of any". The Minister then asks why Newfoundlanders are over-reacting to his announcement.

I suggest that not only Newfoundland will over-react as a result of this announcement today by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. He talked about the level of the cod allocation for St. Pierre and Miquelon in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which is along your coastline in Quebec, Mr. Speaker. It is off Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It is interesting that the Secretary of State talks about legalities when we know from the La Bretagne decision