

FISHERIES

CANADA-FRANCE DISPUTE

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I am not surprised the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) beat a hasty retreat after the spectacle that we saw this morning.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure where the Hon. Member is going, but Statements by Members are not traditionally to be used for any personal attack. However, I will hear the rest of the statement.

Ms. Copps: It is not a personal attack, Mr. Speaker, it is an attack on the Government of Canada. I came here this morning expecting to hear government Members, especially one from Newfoundland, stand up and fight for Canada and defend our interests.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Read the "blues"!

Ms. Copps: Instead I saw a Canadian government official acting as an apologist for the French Government. He should have had the *Marseillaise* playing in the background. He was practically handing out literature for the French election coming up this weekend. My question is this. Who is speaking for Canada? It is the Liberal Party; it is the Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker). We are going to fight for Canadian fishermen, not those limp wimps over there who flop down every time the French Government and the French vessels come into Canadian waters. We have to get rid of the Government because we need someone who speaks for Canada.

* * *

● (1110)

ENERGY

MEGAPROJECTS—USE OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, Canadians ought to be free to decide themselves on an individual basis whether or not they would care to invest their money in petroleum megaprojects such as Hibernia, Terra Nova, OSLO, the Husky Upgrader, or Amauligak.

It is both economically and morally wrong for the state to take their money under threat of force by way of taxation and make that decision on their behalf.

Which, if any, of these projects go ahead should be determined solely by market forces.

Not only would it be a wrongful and wasteful use of taxpayers' money if tax dollars were to be put into one of these

S. O. 21

projects, it would also mean that the Government would be favouring one area of Canada at the expense of another, contrary to the natural workings of the market-place.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

WORKERS' FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION—CONDEMNATION OF POLISH GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, on July 9, 1945, Canada, along with other nations, passed the International Labour Organization Convention concerning the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize.

Many times in the House we have risen to condemn the actions of either the federal Government or a provincial Government, especially in Alberta, with regard to their neglect of that Convention. Today I want to stand in this House and speak against the actions of the Government of Poland which has deliberately ignored this Convention and has refused to recognize the workers' right to free association, and has refused to negotiate with the legitimate trade union body in that country.

I call upon Canadians from coast to coast to express their solidarity with the workers in that country, and say that the Government must listen to the workers there as well as in Canada.

* * *

LABOUR CONDITIONS

FALL IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate nationally has fallen to 7.7 per cent and in the National Capital Region to 5.2 per cent, the lowest in many years.

In terms of job creation, small businesses were responsible for 81 per cent of the 1.2 million new jobs created recently. This trend is continuing.

The Government has taken several initiatives to assist small business. For example, the 1987 federal small business corporate tax rate of 15 per cent will be reduced to 12 per cent effective July 1 this year.

The federal Government has given tax incentives to Canadians to invest in small businesses via pension funds and through labour sponsored venture capital funds. The federal Government implemented an action plan to reduce the burden of paper work on small businesses.