

We see from the coalition of fishermen and fish workers who have come from the West Coast that the Government cannot even put on a regulation without it being challenged, again by the United States, a landing requirement to manage and conserve the stocks within our 200-mile limit over which we have jurisdiction. That is what our trading partners are doing in our natural resources on the West Coast.

When are we going to say to National Sea or to Nova Scotians that they cannot send those 4,400 metric tons that National Sea sent over to the United States unprocessed last year will that be in violation? What will that violate? Let me explain it clearly.

We can presently send unprocessed fish because there is no regulation which says not to send. This is a year of crisis in the fisheries on the East Coast because there is no groundfish. If the federal Government decided to say that we are not going to send our groundfish whole, unprocessed, to the United States, then again it would be in violation because the U.S. would go back to the GATT.

I say to the gentleman over there that I am for anything that protects our natural resources and anything that stops that type of exploitation by the Americans against the most unprotected areas in Canada. Those areas are not run by multinationals. The fisheries is strictly a Canadian fishery, and we certainly should be able to say whether we will process here or not our fish to the finished point. Yes, if it means taking a ban against sending whole fish to the United States, I agree with it.

I certainly hope that the government will listen to the concerns of this west coast group because it is going to happen continually across our great country that our industry is going to be eroded because it hurts some aspect of the United States. They do not even have the decency to wait for the mechanism of the Free Trade Agreement to come into place or, as we have seen in the hog industry, for the GATT negotiations in Uruguay to finish.

The group that we met with today say that "Canada is the world's largest fish exporter but 4,000 B.C. shore workers and an equal number of Maritime workers face lay-offs while unprocessed fish moves south. Our greatest export industry, the mainstay of our coastal economies, is at stake if we fail to act."

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I would now like to move to another area. In a few short weeks of governing, as one has to say about this Government which has been governing since November, it brought in a new program for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. A lot of Members find themselves going home on the weekend and sharing the concerns of the people who put in many hours and whose applications were there for almost a year.

May I call it one o'clock, Madam Speaker?

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member can continue after the Oral Question Period.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

MINES AND MINING

MINERS' MEMORIAL DAY IN CAPE BRETON

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, in 1937 George Orwell vividly described the life of a coal miner in these words: "In the western world the coal miner is second in importance only to the man who ploughs soil".

He went on to say that most of the things one imagines in hell are there; heat, noise, confusion, darkness, foul air and, above all, unbearably cramped space.

Yesterday, June 11, 1989, was Miners' Memorial Day in Cape Breton. We are reminded of the important role coal mining has played in the history of Cape Breton. Although many mining methods have changed since Orwell's time, the unique character of the miner, the courage and strength that Orwell so well described, have not.

The devastating fire at No. 26 colliery in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, brings home once again just how dangerous a profession coal mining is and how the people of Cape Breton have continually had to struggle against adversity. As we turn back the pages of history we remember the tragic loss of 69 men in 1917 in the methane gas