

Supply

I am a little uncertain, though, about the counter offer which, according to the hon. member, Treasury Board made with respect to the request for a further \$1 million of financing. As I recall the circumstances, the minister did make a request for a further \$1 million of financing, and we got into a discussion about the extent to which funds might be available in the board's budget in other categories and which, because they had lapsed for other reasons, might be used. That is where the matter now stands. We are awaiting information as to the extent to which funds which had been overlooked might be available. We are sympathetic to the plight of the film board, but faced with the staggering deficit which confronts us we are very reluctant to make further commitments if they can be avoided.

Mr. MacLellan: Mr. Chairman, first I should like to make a general observation with regard to what the minister of fisheries seems to be trying to do here. It seems to be an extension of the whole program of this government, a very elitist program, which follows quickly on the heels of the review of FIRA where they seemed to be wanting to bring in industry from outside at will without any checks or balances, as in the case of Petro-Canada where they turned the oil industry over to the multinationals. With high interest rates, small business cannot compete.

I see the President of the Treasury Board is smiling. Well, he should, because if anybody can be branded with responsibility for the elitist tone and the elitist programs of that government, it is certainly himself. The minister smiles. He knows that at various times I have presented requests from the Atlantic provinces, for example from the coal industry; in Sydney they had to cancel seven or eight vessels already this year because of lack of coal. But that does not matter to the minister. It does not matter that the coal can be sold. It is not the program of this government to invest in areas which need investment; it is the program of the government to invest in areas which do not, to make the rich richer. Is that not right? I must say there is one thing they do very well. When members of the government speak, their lips do not even move. I think that is remarkable.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacLellan: With regard to the fisheries, I must say that the minister of fisheries seems to be preoccupied with the case of the processors, to the detriment of the whole fishing industry. I should like to ask the minister of fisheries how many processors he has seen go bankrupt in the last four years. The processors are certainly to be considered because they are very important to the industry. But it is the inshore fishermen who are most important of all and I say to the minister that he has completely neglected them. He has neglected not only their occupation but their way of life.

It seems to be a consolidation process on the part of the government to ignore completely the lifestyle of these people, their right to work in the villages and areas in which they have been working all their lives, to try to take away the means they

have of earning their living in their own communities. I ask the minister of fisheries: what does he say to the people in the small villages of Atlantic Canada when he goes to visit them? What does he say to them when they tell him that the cost of a 53-inch long-liner is now \$500,000 and that the government has taken away the means of financing these vessels? What does he say to them when they ask him how are they going to earn their living?

I ask the minister to reconsider his policy with regard to financing of vessels for the inshore fishery and to reconsider the policies which affect these people. I would ask him to look again at the policies he has implemented since coming to power with regard to the crab fishing industry. By letting large vessels into the gulf he has severely threatened this industry, one which is just beginning to emerge as a profitable means of employment for the fishermen of Cape Breton Island.

I would ask him to reconsider his stance with regard to the squid fishery. He listened very nicely to the processors when they told him that although there is presently a glut of squid, they do not buy squid.

● (1500)

That is not the end of the argument. The case for the small inshore fisherman has not yet been heard in this matter. The reason there is a sufficiency of squid at the present time is that processors were able to stock their freezers prior to this particular time with squid, and they were able to purchase at lower rates than are now prevalent in the market. What can small inshore fishermen do? To whom can they go? They cannot go to the minister because he is deaf to their requests.

Mr. LeBlanc: They cannot go to the government of Nova Scotia.

Mr. MacLellan: It has been proved that they cannot go to the government of Nova Scotia. Fishermen want to have the right to sell their squid over the side. That is not within the realm of feasibility, in the minister's estimation. How can the minister say that there is a glut in squid? Processors are saying that because they do not want to buy any more. How can we determine this?

We know the habits of certain fish on the Atlantic coast, but what do we know about squid stocks? How do we know when they are going to be back again? Where can we get information as to where they go? What information do we have that the market is saturated at the present time? If in fact there are buyers, why not allow fishermen the right to sell this fish over the side? If they are going to be captives of processors, not only will they lose but the processors will lose as well.

If the minister and the government are going to allow the small inshore fisherman to disappear and not allow him to carry on his fishing as he would like, how is he going to earn a living? How are processors going to be able to justify the fish plants they have in the midst of these pockets of inshore fishing? Those processing plants are going to close, and there will be a ricochet action. That will all be the result of the present policy of this government, and I think small inshore fishermen are right in being unanimously opposed to the