

pin. It is seen that the inshore fishery is of great importance. We even find Liberals, such as the Secretary of State for External Affairs, making a statement on January 26 on fisheries development in Newfoundland. Let me quote from page 3:

Nevertheless, fishery development, along modern lines, is the best economic generator Newfoundland can have.

That is quite a turnaround for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It was he and his Liberal government in Ottawa, and Mr. Smallwood and his government in Newfoundland, that said the inshore fishery was finished. They let it run down in the 1950s and 1960s. They developed a great resettlement scheme financed with federal money from copious funds in Ottawa which removed people from the northeast coast and the inshore fishing communities and brought them into centralized areas where they were to go to work in industrial ghettos. The only problem was we did not get the industry for them to work at. They were taken from places where they could have fished and been productive and moved to places where they could no longer be productive but where they had better schools, highways and the like. That was all done because the Liberal government of the 1950s, the 1960s and up to 1972 did not recognize the fishery as being important.

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However, we now have the Secretary of State for External Affairs stating that fishery development along modern lines is the best economic generator that Newfoundland can have. It is a new discovery. I am glad to see they are adopting the policy of the Progressive Conservative administration of Mr. Moores in Newfoundland. The minister went on to say at page 3:

It is part of the social fabric of the province, the main supporter of a distinctive lifestyle. Whatever other elements are added, the Newfoundland fishery must be the key, the foundation for any development strategy.

I am glad to see he has come to this. Now it is recognized. Further down the page, he stated the inshore fishery comes first.

The fact is that how the offshore fishery is managed determines the fate of the inshore fishery and that of thousands of inshore fishermen.

I do not have time to go into everything that the hon. gentleman stated in his 17-page statement. There is much in it with which I can agree. Some of the wording and some of the meaning is not clear, such as the differences between the two governments. I do not have time to go into all that. I notice on page 6 his bias toward the south coast, his own district, when he says:

Even though the general offshore catching capability is more than adequate at present, there are, as noted, some plants, particularly on the south coast, with specific and immediate problems.

There are plants other than on the south coast of Newfoundland with specific and immediate problems, such as the plant at Harbour Grace, Conception Bay. It used to operate 12 months a year when it had a fleet of fishing trawlers fishing there. Since 1968 it has been an inshore plant dependent on the inshore fishery only. Without a trawler fleet, it is only operating five or six months of the year. A proposal has now been made by Ocean Harvesters Limited at Harbour Grace

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and by Nordzee which could, if accepted, result in that plant operating all year round and having trawlers fishing there. I do not have time today to go into all the pros and cons of that particular situation.

I do want to point out the bias evident in the federal fishery policy in Newfoundland caused by the pre-eminent position of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. He is concerned with fish plants on the south coast, but much less concerned with fish plants and fishermen elsewhere on the island. The illustration of this is the fact that on January 24 the federal fisheries minister made the statement that he is now considering chartering foreign fishing vessels. Everyone said it was great that the federal government was going to charter foreign fishing vessels and land fish in Newfoundland or other parts of Canada so that our plants would operate toward full time; they now operate at 35 per cent capacity.

It now turns out that the minister is going to charter foreign fishing vessels to land catches in Newfoundland not at Harbour Grace or other inshore plants, but at plants that normally work 12 months of the year but which ran into supply problems last year. In other words, this is to help those plants which normally operate year round. They are nearly all on the south coast of Newfoundland, in the district of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. There is no help for the plant, the fishermen and the fish workers at Harbour Grace, Twillingate or anywhere else in Newfoundland.

In that statement of January 24, the minister said there were several thousand tons of northern cod unlikely under present arrangements to be taken by Canadians this year. We might keep that in mind when the great debate on possible Nordzee investment comes forward. There is a bias here. The Lake companies had just bought the fish plant owned by Booth Fisheries, formerly located in Fortune on the Burin peninsula. That plant is having great trouble, it is not getting enough fish. The trawlers they have are side trawlers and stern trawlers. The catches they are bringing in are not enough to keep the plant operating 12 months of the year. This plant is in the district of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

What the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment (Mr. LeBlanc) is talking about is a scheme for the federal government to charter foreign fishing vessels, which they will not permit other people to do, to land fish principally at the new Lake plant in Fortune, in the district of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, so that the plant will be able to work 12 months of the year. There is no suggestion of any scheme to land fish elsewhere in Newfoundland, such as in St. John's West, St. John's East, Bonavista-Trinity-Conception or any other area where the plants operate only four or five months of the year.

The minister said that the suggestion that we should divide the ownership of catching vessels from processing plants is an interesting one. He does not say he buys it, but I believe that is the direction he has to go. He said it would be an evolving concept in Newfoundland.

He recognizes that the traditional trap fishery is the backbone of the inshore fishery. That is certainly true. It is the