

*Fisheries Improvement Loans Act*

maritimes fisheries. But aid has been extended to the fisheries for a number of years, and this measure is simply going to improve the situation and make more money available for more purposes at realistic interest rates. The federal government, through all departments—fisheries, public works, transport, unemployment insurance, etc.—puts up the equivalent of more than 40 cents for every \$1 that the fisherman gets for his fish.

In 1968—and this relates to the program which is part of the general pattern of assistance—the government had in operation three expenditure programs involving \$4.5 million for groundfish, \$2.5 million for salt cod and \$1.2 million for the resettlement of fishermen. These programs were in addition to the other aid that is provided. This fact was not referred to yesterday by the hon. member.

• (3:30 p.m.)

If we are going to help any given part of Canada, then there must be a degree of co-operation among members of all parties of this house. The hon. member for St. John's East is either ignorant of the facts or he has chosen to ignore them; and neither condition is acceptable. I urge the hon. member to spend more time in his province promoting and encouraging a greater use of the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act and less time in pursuing personally destructive vendettas against the Minister of Fisheries and the federal government. It is to be hoped that since he has now made his speech he will support this measure in the interests of the fishermen of Canada wherever they live.

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, some time ago the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) asked who the hell was the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour. I am wondering what the hell the hon. member is trying to prove with his irrelevant remarks.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I may be anticipating the hon. member's remarks but I must tell him, as I told the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour, that under the rules hon. members' remarks should be confined to the principle of the bill and should not be personal in any way.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** I understand that, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that the hon. member's remarks misrepresented the facts of a situation. No one will deny that in presenting Bill C-151 the Minister of Fisheries is trying to make an effort, in one form or another, to help the fishermen of Canada ameliorate their

circumstances. One of our problems is that the Minister of Fisheries does not know the Atlantic region. His sincerity notwithstanding, he has not had a great deal to do with the Atlantic fishery. It might be a good idea if we had two deputy ministers responsible for fisheries, one dealing with the Atlantic region and one with the Pacific coast. Because there are great differences between the east and west coast fisheries I have heard it suggested that there ought to be two ministers responsible for fisheries who in turn would have deputy ministers. Although no one can say that the minister is displaying no interest in our fisheries it is true that he knows little about Atlantic Canada. I think he will be the first to admit that.

It is well for the minister to understand that our Atlantic fishermen are not looking for handouts or for government of Canada doles. I take strong exception to any suggestion that under Bill C-151 our fishermen will be entitled to receive a form of dole. That kind of thinking is unworthy of some of our better off Canadians who live in industrialized regions. It is unjust for anyone to classify some people in Canada as second class citizens who are satisfied to live on government handouts. Anyone making that suggestion about our Atlantic fishermen is wasting the time of hon. members and of this house.

Several times during this debate hon. members have mentioned that the fishermen of Newfoundland receive 40 per cent of their total incomes in the form of government handouts. Only last month the government of Canada made a so-called sacrifice and shipped 50 million pounds of fish to Biafra. The world looked on and said, "My, what a government they have in Canada; what a great government." The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) was happy with the shipment, everyone was happy, and representatives at the United Nations acclaimed the magnificently benevolent attitude Canada displayed toward the suffering people of Nigeria and Biafra. We sent the fish all right, but what the people of the world did not understand was that the government of Canada squeezed the fishermen of Newfoundland in order to obtain that fish at the lowest possible price. It was the fishermen of Newfoundland who made the sacrifice and who shipped that fish to Biafra.

**Mr. McGrath:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** I wish to place on record what the government did. Officials of the government of Canada asked merchants of the