

*Atlantic Fisheries Restructuring Act*

of going in for secondary processing. Indeed, we have the means to do that in New Brunswick as well, and like the others we should be entitled to the same assistance for private sector plants and businesses in New Brunswick and elsewhere, for people who are not restructured into super-companies. We should be given the same opportunity to go in for secondary processing.

The third point is that groundfish fishing permits were lost in New Brunswick during the 70s when groundfish stocks were radically depleted. At that time, 19 groundfish fishing permits were lost in New Brunswick. In addition, four large trawlers financed by the Province of New Brunswick used to fish in the Gulf northeast of New Brunswick, but they have now been leased to Nova Scotia companies. Two are financed by a company called Pearce Fisheries and the other one by National Sea Products. Now that groundfish stocks are plentiful in the Gulf, I think that those four boats should be sent back in the Gulf because they are financed by the New Brunswick taxpayers. The Minister has the authority to do that. There was a moral agreement under which those boats would continue to supply northeastern New Brunswick plants, but they discontinued that practice after a few months. And now we have to share quotas, for cod for instance, offshore within the 200-mile limit. Two New Brunswick boats are now operating there, so they will have to go along with the proposed offshore groundfish quotas. The Department says that it is going to return to past practice and keep fishing records in mind. I think it has been its intention for the past five or six years. What happens is that the record will show the catches of these four New Brunswick boats that fish off Nova Scotia as Nova Scotia landings. I believe that the landings of these four boats should be recorded as New Brunswick landings and that, based on these figures, New Brunswick should be allocated larger quotas for off-shore groundfish landings. I would like to talk about two boats, namely the *Caraquet* belonging to a Caraquet company, and the *Pandalus* belonging to the Lanique Island Fishermen's Cooperative.

Now, for my fourth point. The federal Government should quickly develop a marketing financing and assistance program for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island plants, because there are no restructuring agreements with these two provinces. We cannot expect the Government of New Brunswick, not to mention that of Prince Edward Island since it has not signed a restructuring agreement either, we cannot expect the governments of these provinces, which did not receive any injection of funds as opposed to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, for example towards a reduction of the debts on fishing vessels, to be able on their own to finance independent processors, for instance. The federal Government must therefore implement a program for these two provinces.

Fourth point! One irritant in New Brunswick is that the current policy for herring and mackerel fishing leaves a lot to be desired, for both the inshore and the offshore fisheries. In the case of the inshore fishery, there are no markets or guarantees for the fisherman when he brings in his catch. The result is that he does not get the price he deserves for his fish.

Inshore fishermen therefore cannot be expected to cooperate in terms of a balanced policy for herring and mackerel fishing.

As for the offshore fishery, the policy announced by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans last August to reduce the seiner fleet is very ineffective and unfair because the fishermen are told to reduce their fleet, and to do so, they have to buy a lottery ticket. This means that the owner of a fishing vessel who has had good years in the herring fishery and who is now financially sound can purchase the quotas of a younger fisherman or someone who has just gotten into the industry and who is in a more precarious financial situation saddled with a heavy debt on his boat. He can purchase the quota of this fisherman, who will then be left with his boat, but without quota or a licence.

Mr. Speaker, it is very unfair to have a policy that simply says that the big guy will be able to buy out the smaller one. The Government should review its policy without delay because it is another irritant for New Brunswick fishermen, and they cannot be blamed for having lost confidence in the current policy of the Government.

Last point! We must make sure that the restructuring in Quebec will not result in an expansion of the Quebec plants. I do not object to the Government helping the Quebec plants, or to Quebec companies modernizing their plants, but if this restructuring program or another assistance program for Quebec were to increase the capacity of Quebec plants, it would create a very unfair competition for the fishing industry of Northeastern New Brunswick. Historically, some of the companies now having problems in Quebec paid more for fish than New Brunswick companies. As a result, these Quebec companies had financial problems, and now, the Government is bailing them out. This must not happen again, Mr. Speaker. We have to ensure against any unfair competition based on prices and also avoid any unfair competition as a result of Government development assistance to Quebec processing plants.

[English]

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the total approach to the problem of restructuring the industry taken by the Government is highly unusual, in my view. I just do not understand how anyone in Government could even think of this kind of agreement with the Bank of Nova Scotia. I am surprised to see that the Opposition is supporting this kind of approach. The hypocrisy of the Official Opposition on this Bill is very obvious. They should not think that people are not seeing through their position. If Hon. Members opposite want to support this Bill, that is fine. That is their right. But they should not keep saying this is nationalization of the industry, or socialization of the industry and, on the other hand, co-operate with the Government to get the Bill through the House in one day. I want the record to show, Mr. Speaker, that the Official Opposition supports this Bill, because its position is very visible. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) said, a few days after this Bill was tabled, that he was going to support this Bill. The Minister of Fisheries from Newfound-