

*Government Orders*

boat, let alone to put bread and butter on the table. There are in very desperate straits. They have a need that this government ought to address right now.

This disaster has happened through no fault of those people. They did not do anything. They did not stay in bed because they were lazy. They did not refuse to buy bait. They did all the things that they were supposed to do. They baited their gear the night before, put it in the baited trawl unit, went home and snatched four or five hours sleep, got up at 2.30 or three o'clock in the morning, put the tubs of gear and fuel aboard the boat, put their lunch aboard the boat, and sailed sometimes for as long as two or three hours to the fishing ground. They did that in the months of January and February, in the worst kinds of weather. So do not let anybody suggest that we have a lazy group of people on our hands. That hardly sounds like laziness to me.

The work ethic I have described is not exclusive to Newfoundland. I see other members in this Chamber who represent other fishing constituencies. I understand that the work ethic is no less honoured by its practice in those constituencies than it is on the southwest coast of Newfoundland. That is the way it should be.

The point I wanted to draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, is that those people, through no fault of their own, despite their best efforts day in and day out, six days a week, every day except Sunday, have come up empty. They do not have enough money to put bread and butter on the table as a result of their efforts day in and day out. That is the first issue that the fish aid package does not address.

Another issue has to do with the money that is being paid to those communities whose fish plants are under the gun. I am thinking of communities like Gaultois and Grand Bank in my riding, Trepassey in the riding of the gentleman from St. John's West, also St. John's, or as we call it back home, the South Side Hills, the south side plant. These are four plants that are affected.

Other plants that are seasonal operations are affected. The Burgeo plant in my riding, which used to be a 12 month plant, has been cut back now to a six month plant. The workers are uncertain, because there is a rumour that the company is talking about selling that plant. That might be a blessing in disguise, but we will not know that until we get more information. That is an important issue but another issue.

I want to come to the question of Gaultois, Grand Bank, and Trepassey and the south side St. John's plant. If you read the actual print, the fish aid package states that money is being put in to assist those communities. I have no doubt that there are ways that those several millions of dollars, in the case of each of the communities, can be expended to be of some help to the communities.

What I put to the minister today during Question Period, and what I hope he will take up, is the suggestion that the funding made available for the community adjustment program ought to be applied to trigger Clause 5 of the FPI, the Fishery Products International privatization agreement.

In the agreement between the Government of Canada and the government of Newfoundland and Fishery Products International at the time that FPI moved from government hands to become a private enterprise, that clause provides that if at some time the company decides that it wants to close one or more plants, the Government of Canada and/or the Government of Newfoundland can keep those plants open by providing the incremental funding.

Nobody is suggesting that government ought to fund that *ad nauseam* forever and ever. However, if we do the things that Dr. Harris and his panel recommend, and if we get control of the foreign overfishing issue, we are told the stocks are going to rebound in five or six years. That is a different issue, but if we believe the government's assurances, in a matter of time that will be taken in hand. I have a strong view on that, but I am trying not to get sidetracked from the point that I want to make.

If we believe the government's agenda on foreign overfishing and believe the scientists and Dr. Harris and what they say about rebuilding the stock, we have to