

Portugal says: "I do not see that they have a problem". Spain says: "Canadians are catching too much anyway". They are throwing it back in our face. We are the laughing stock of the European Community because we are not doing the things we should be doing. So that is where we stand.

The fourth aspect of this is the tone of the debate today. The minister of fisheries says this is not a national sovereignty issue. Well, I beg to differ. There are 8,000 people being affected by this in Newfoundland alone. There are 32,000 people in the industry, so that makes 25 per cent, 25 per cent of the automobile industry in a province, 25 per cent of farmers, 25 per cent of textiles. If that is not a national sovereignty issue, what in the name of God is? It is national. Look who got up and spoke today. We have had speakers from British Columbia to Newfoundland. We have had my hon. colleagues from the prairies, from Ontario, from Quebec. And we will have speakers from every one of the Atlantic provinces. If this is not a national sovereignty issue and if this is not something that preoccupies this House as a national subject, given the range of speakers and where they come from, I do not know what is.

Where are we left? Where are we with all this? With the speeches, with the talks and with the litany of action that the minister has promised, with the United Nations conferences and the speeches that are being prepared for ministers who will speak here today, where are we?

A picture is worth a thousand words. In the first two minutes of the speech of the hon. member from Burin—St. George's today he mentioned two graphs, one with foreign fishing going up with time and one with national, legal fishing going down. That is what is happening.

So what we are left with is a motion that both sides of the House agree is doable. It is recognized. There is precedent for it. We do not disagree on the principle. We are disagreeing on the timing. We have the evidence. We have the agreement on the principle, so now we are down to one little itsy-bitsy thing, the timing.

The solution is there, we are waiting for the time. When is the time going to be right? If you come to a brick wall and it is in the way of your goal, you butt your head. If that does not work you use a hammer. If that does not work you use an axe. If that does not work you use a sledge-hammer. If that does not work you might have to get a bulldozer. You may have to pay for it. You

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may have to pay a man to work on the bulldozer. That is the price you have to pay.

We may have to pay a price for doing what I am suggesting and what has been suggested by this motion that we do. I have no doubt that we will, but the price will be worth it because national sovereignty, the face of this country, the livelihood of people are at stake.

What are we waiting for? How many more anxious faces do we need to see? How many more fish plants and processing plants do we have to see close? How many locks on gates do we have to see? How many more mayors of communities have to come to my office here in Ottawa and my office in Bonavista? There is one sitting there right now. I would suggest, no more, no more time, we must do it now.

I am saying this government should have the political will to act now to extend the functional jurisdiction so that we can put an end to this difficulty that will, if we do not do something, cause the end of the fishing industry and the dignity and the livelihood of those people involved.

Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception has a history of involvement with the fishery that perhaps no other member of this Chamber has.

We have witnessed in the last month one of the largest fish plants I suppose in Atlantic Canada close its gates just a short distance from where the hon. member grew up and who is so intimately involved with the fishery. If there is one person who knows the industry as an industry, that is as a business, it is the hon. member who just spoke, and his family too.

I want to ask him to elaborate on this fact that right within a gunshot, as we would say, from his home where he grew up, the only employer either just shut its doors or is about to shut its doors. Could the hon. member tell us how many people are involved?

Mr. Mifflin: I thank my hon. colleague from Gander—Grand Falls for giving me the opportunity to get into this kind of detail because a 10-minute presentation does not allow it. The hon. member is right and I do thank him for his comment.

The processing plant on the border of Catalina and Port Union is the largest and the most up-to-date processing plant in Canada. It is owned by FPI and it was built not that long ago. FPI and in fact all of Atlantic Canada boasted that it was probably the most modern in