Government Orders

There are many more points. I am sure my friend has a response, she always does. I am also interested in hearing from my hon. friend from British Columbia.

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, I will only take a few minutes in case there are other people who want to ask me questions.

I would say, particularly on the subject of Canso, because I was a strong advocate in this House for Canso and Lockeport, that when you take the boats away from a community as was done by National Sea, you take away the whole livelihood of a community.

Mr. Reid: The boats are staying.

Ms. Campbell (South West Nova): Now the boats are going to stay in Canso. They have not gone back to Lockeport. All I am saying is that on top of that, you give those boats only the quota that National Sea thinks is fair. That is not what you are talking about. What was wrong in the Canso and Burgeo deal was that you changed the playing field. You gave them underutilized species that they could trade for stocks, barter with the Russians who are going to catch it and then you give them free fish to process and sell. Now most companies in Canada do not get a free product. That changed the playing–field.

I am just saying that when the Fisheries Council of Canada and the seafood producers of Nova Scotia and others all think this deal stinks, I have to agree with them. You are not helping Canso and Burgeo over the long run. When you cannot barter any more, how are you going to get the fish free?

The other thing I want to say is that countries like Spain and Portugal, or any other countries that fish here, foot the bill for the penalties in this act. The little fishermen in the inshore communities foot their own bills if they violate this act.

I say through the parliamentary secretary to the minister that the bill should make a difference. Whether it is a small fishing boat, an inshore or an offshore fishery, or a foreigner or an American the penalty—

Mr. Reid: The courts will do that.

Ms. Campbell (South West Nova): No, Mr. Speaker, the courts will only interpret what this Parliament puts into the legislation. A foreign country such as Portugal that supports its fishery and pays its penalty is not hurting the country. It is hurting the inshore. It is no way to improve conservation methods in this country or to

restore stocks by having an attitude that will kill the inshore by heavy penalties rather than reversing and coming up with better policies. And on biological data in the Bay of Fundy, use the fishermen. They can tell you what is there. They can tell you that the foreigners should not be in the silver hake box next to the spawning grounds when they cannot go fishing.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Are there further questions or comments? On debate, the hon. member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley.

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to be in the House and to speak today on Bill C-74, an act to amend the Fisheries Act and to amend the Criminal Code in consequence thereof, which was first read on June 6 and debated at second reading on June 19 and the debate that we are starting today.

I gather that the government had consultations yesterday about bringing this bill forward today and, although not planned, nevertheless we are prepared to participate fully in the debate in the House today, to make some comments about this legislation and about some of the changes that we feel can be identified in it and, obviously, to make comments about what to expect when this legislation makes its way into committee.

First of all, I want to just say to you, Mr. Speaker, that I want to thank my leader, the hon. member for Yukon. Following some recent appointments, I am now honoured to speak on fisheries issues as well as forestry issues. Why I think that that is a smart move on our leader's part is that if we are to truly develop a sustainable development policy for our environment and our resources in Canada, what we clearly have to do is pay careful attention to perhaps two of the most important resources there are in Canada right now, our forests and our fisheries.

I said in a statement yesterday, which I am sure you listened to carefully, Mr. Speaker, that the concerns I have about the policies of the present Conservative government and the Liberals, when they were in power and now in opposition, relate to farms, fish and forests, some of those basics in Canada that we come to rely on to make our livelihoods and also in which to recreate. I think the clear direction that our leader has given is going to develop the kind of policies and directions that I think will be in the forefront and the leading edge of