

This was fine at the beginning because they went quite a bit further than the 50 mile line. In fact, they were fishing 125 to 250 miles southwest of Cape Sable Island. Then commercial fishing areas were discovered in the Browns Bank and Baccaro Bank area 50 to 100 miles off the coast and very close to the inshore lobster fishing areas. Last year the eight or nine offshore lobster boats were given a quota in this area of 900,000 pounds or approximately 450 metric tonnes. The same quota exists this year.

It was felt by the department that some quota should be imposed in order to preserve whatever lobster stocks there might be there for the inshore fishermen who fish adjoining and up to the 50-mile limit. With the commencement of the inshore lobster fishery at the end of November, and pending the outcome of the study that was commissioned in 1975 by the minister of fisheries, of which preliminary indications show that there probably is a connection—and Dr. Cady was quoted in a recent article in the *Chronicle Herald* as saying we have to protect this valuable inshore fishery—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but her time has expired.

Mr. Jack Pearsall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the minister has asked me to express to the hon. member for South Western Nova (Miss Campbell) his personal concern for the inshore-offshore lobster problem. I would advise the hon. member as follows.

The results of a meeting held October 24 to 26 between Canadian and American scientists on the above subject provided evidence, although not 100 per cent conclusive, that an inter-relationship between inshore Nova Scotia lobster and offshore lobster, including Browns Bank, does exist. Also, there is some evidence showing movement of individual lobsters between Browns Bank and Georges Bank.

Evidence shows there is significant larvae production on Browns and Georges and drift patterns of the larvae from Browns inshore. The data lead to consideration of the option to close a portion of Browns Bank to the offshore fleet and at the same time try and move the boundary between inshore and offshore closer inshore to create a closed "spawning stock area".

A firm recommendation from the meeting was the need to raise size limits along the entire eastern seaboard. The Americans will be making public the results of the Canada-U.S. discussions and the Canadian media were informed by a news release on November 6, 1978.

Another conclusion reached at the meeting is that it seems clear that the area east of Cape Sable Island, where the lobster landings are going down, is not affected by any offshore-inshore inter-relationship. Rather, the decline appears to be due partly to over-fishing and partly to a change in the ecology. Evidence shows that kelp beds in that area are being eroded and denuded by sea urchins. The relationship between ecological change in kelp beds and lobster stocks is continuing

to be investigated, but the decline in stocks is clearly not an effect of offshore fishing.

Tagging experiments are being conducted both by federal scientists and by New Brunswick.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please.

● (2222)

PUBLIC WORKS—CONSTRUCTION OF TAXATION CENTRE AT SUDBURY, ONT.

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, on November 3, I raised a question with the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Andras), regarding the construction of the taxation data centre in Sudbury. This centre was announced in the summer of 1977 after I had raised the matter with the then minister of national revenue, as her letter to me dated July 19, 1977 confirms.

Construction of the centre was scheduled for this fall but, it was announced that because of drafting problems the contract would not be let until next year. I thereupon wrote to the Minister of National Revenue, asking him to end what appeared to be political horsing around with an extremely important capital project in the Sudbury basin. The minister wrote back to me on October 25. His letter stated:

In fact, plans for the proposed Taxation Centre for Sudbury are proceeding. Although originally scheduled to commence operation in the fall of 1980, it has now been deferred until the fall of 1981 due to the recent government financial restraint program. In the meantime, my staff along with employees of Department of Public Works and their private sector architectural and engineering consultants are proceeding with the planning phase, with the intention of calling tenders for the general contract in the summer of 1979, with construction to commence in September or October.

We received a commitment for this taxation data centre. We were promised it would be under construction this fall. That, of course, was when there was speculation that there would be a fall election. Now it has been rescheduled for the fall of 1979. Is it because we must have a spring general election in 1979, that the people of the Sudbury area are in effect being told that if they do not vote the right way they may not get the taxation data centre at all? We do not appreciate that kind of stick and carrot approach.

The fact is, our basin is suffering a viciously high unemployment rate of 11.2 per cent, and in the various trades unemployment is running as high as 80 per cent. Moreover, last fall Inco and Falconbridge gave us a Christmas present, an announcement of some 3,000 lay-offs. Neither Ottawa nor Queen's Park could deal with the reality of mobile capital and resource domination by multinational mining corporations. In spite of the fact that the community was mobilized to petition the government to take action and that specific, positive proposals were made, not a bloody thing was done, not a bloody thing, and these layoffs took place. What a sad commentary on the leadership in this country of ours today. This government was completely immobilized when it came to dealing with unilateral action on the part of multinational mining corporations. Our workers demanded employment but the government turned a deaf ear to them.