

Fisheries Act

work. I think that is wrong and that it should be stopped. It does not happen anywhere else in Canada; it is not done to any other workers in Canada and we are determined that it shall not be done to the sealers. Last year, the fisheries officers had no authority to stop that sort of thing. They were on the high seas and had no authority to do what they thought they should be doing. They were practically impotent to do what needed to be done. This act, in another section, gives fisheries officers the authority of peace officers and will enable them to enforce this amendment.

● (1240)

From the political point of view, the other thing we have to do, after we pass this amendment and put it into law thus tightening the law on behalf of sealers, is to do a job in Canada by telling the story of the seal fishery as it should be told in order to set the record straight. The people of Canada have been subjected to a lot of inaccurate information. As an example, the method of killing seals has been described by many as inhumane. We have on the record now a number of reputable humane societies in this country which say that the method of seal killing is as humane as possible and is more humane than the methods used in many abattoirs in Canada. It is more humane than the methods used in other areas of work whereby living creatures are killed. There is a balance of nature to protect and preserve. We, as human beings, are going to continue to eat, and continue to use that which is put on this earth for our use. In terms of the humanity of the kill, it has been shown that it is as humane as most and more humane than some. The government of Canada took exception to steps in the direction of inhumane killing. I remember when the previous minister of fisheries outlawed the gaff and introduced the club. There is enough information on the record to indicate that the method of killing is humane.

I hope the seal industry in Newfoundland can be developed because it is an important source of income for Newfoundland fishermen. In years past they have made \$1,000 a year from the fishery. This year, which was a particularly good year, inshore fishermen made an average of between \$4,000 and \$5,000 from the seal fishery alone. When you consider half of the fishermen in the Atlantic provinces live below what would normally be described as the poverty line in this country, then we can justify that seal fishery.

We had to change the law and we also have to change the hearts and minds of Canadians. We have wolves in sheep's clothing and false prophets who have been preying on the emotions of people who are looking for a cause and have nothing to get involved in at the moment. It is unfortunate that a former reputable organization such as Greenpeace should get involved in a situation which is not in keeping with their past record. When they protested against the testing of nuclear devices, a lot of people in this country were with them. Now that they are trying to protect the whales, a lot of people in this country will be with them. When they attempted to protect seals, they did not know what they were getting into and were out in left field. I hope we have been able to turn the tables. I hope we will be able to tell the people of Canada in

[Mr. Rompkey.]

the future exactly how important this industry is to the Atlantic provinces and exactly what protections we should build in and are building into the Fisheries Act in order to protect people in the course of doing their jobs.

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in seconding the motion of the hon. member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador (Mr. Rompkey). I commend him for the work he has done, and I also commend the government for giving us this means to protect what has been the heritage of many hundreds of Newfoundlanders for many hundreds of years. I am very pleased, and I am sure the people of the Atlantic region are pleased as well, with the fact that this is a humane hunt. As the hon. member indicated, it has been proven time and time again that people for some reason or other are trying to destroy the minds of other people for their own gains.

I have no hesitation in naming the people to whom I am referring. As is indicated in the article contained in the Toronto *Sun*, the people who wanted to ban sealing were: Brian Davies from Vancouver; Franz Weber from Switzerland; Michael Moynihan from New York, who is Senator Daniel P. Moynihan's brother; and some fellow from Boulder, Colorado who accompanied Brian Davies of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Greenpeace. The article continues as follows:

These types are the reason why, every springtime, when the harp seals begin to whelp on the front of ice moving down from the Arctic, St. Anthony turns into a scene that, if Paddy Chayefsky had known about it, he would have worked into *Network*.

These are people who are doing damage to Newfoundland Canadians, and they are allowed to get away with it. They went deliberately to the seal hunt last year against orders and provoked fishery officials and sealers just to get particular attention. They pretended they were drowning and pretended they were hit by fishery officers, just to get the attention of the press and to give the wrong impression to the people of Canada and the people of the world. They wanted to give the impression that Newfoundlanders were barbarians and that the seal hunt should not continue.

As my hon. colleague has said, the table has turned, and it turned as late as May 30, 1977 when the Ontario Humane Society indicated in a very good article that they were convinced the seal hunt was humane and supported it wholeheartedly. An article in the St. John's *Evening Telegram* of May 30, 1977 reads as follows:

Canada's largest humane society has endorsed a report of a government committee on sealing which maintains Newfoundland's annual seal hunt is the most carefully regulated and controlled of outside slaughter operations.

The 20,000-member Ontario Humane Society Friday unanimously passed a resolution supporting the report of the committee on seals and sealing at its annual general meeting held in Honey Harbour, Ontario.

The COSS was appointed by the federal government in 1971 and is composed of scientists, veterinarians, and members of Canadian and international humane societies.

Perhaps much more will be said about this after today, but I should recommend to everybody in the House, if they have not seen it, the pamphlet put out by the Minister of Fisheries and