

I understood that soon the minister is to go to Moscow and talk about conservation measures. He has made his appointment to go as the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. God knows what may happen to him in Moscow if he turns up as the minister of the environment; we don't know. However, that is just a small consideration. I see nothing to be ashamed of in the name of that department. It is a good, sincere and honest name that reflects the industries the department is supposed to promote and encourage. There is nothing wrong with it. I should hate to think that the minister personally regarded the words "fisheries" or "fish" as words with stigmas attached to them; I would not like to think that, although what is happening almost makes one think that such might be the case.

I remember when I was campaigning in my riding an old gentleman in the port of White Bay dragged out a copy of the local St. John's paper; he looked at a picture on the front page showing the Prime Minister with a big rose in his teeth and he said, "Old man, the smell of cod fish would very likely make him sick." That is a bit of a joke. I would not doubt that that is the case with the Prime Minister, but I should hate to think that the minister of fisheries, who has begun to gain a reputation in this field, feels this way. If he wants to be known as the minister of the environment, he will never have the support of my vote. The minimum that I shall accept is that the name of the department shall contain the word "fisheries", to reflect an industry that means so much to so many of us.

[Translation]

**Mr. Cyr:** Mr. Chairman, if I take part in the debate on this amendment, it is certainly not because I intend to filibuster, as it has been done in committee of the whole in the past few days, but to correct certain statements made by my hon. friend from Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan).

The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate stated, as recorded at page 3463 of *Hansard* and I quote:

When Bill C-207 becomes legislation—over the dead bodies of those who are concerned about the fishing industry in Canada, we will represent the only part of Canada which has no department of fisheries—Then we come to the province of Quebec where there is a minister of fisheries—

Mr. Chairman, for the information of the members of this committee, I wish to point out to them that the province of Quebec has no minister of fisheries and that the fishing industry, in Quebec, comes under the Minister of Industry and Commerce, the hon. Gérard-D. Lévesque.

Furthermore, it must be noted that Quebec is the only province of Eastern Canada that has full jurisdiction over its fisheries, except for inspection, and this, since 1922, and that it has no department of Fisheries.

The fishing industry, in Quebec, is as prosperous and flourishing as in the Atlantic provinces. The Gaspé fishermen draw a higher income per capita than the fishermen in Newfoundland.

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

The government of Canada, a few years ago, combined the Department of Fisheries and that of Forestry, and without a department of Fisheries, much more has been done for the fishing industry, in Canada, in recent years, under the clever management of the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, the member for Capilano (Mr. Davis). You will agree with me that it would be too long to list now all of the legislation introduced in this chamber by the minister, over the past three years.

That the Act be entitled "Department of the Environment" or "Department of Fisheries and Environment", Canadian fishermen, particularly those from Gaspé, do not care at all.

Mr. Chairman, may I say that, should the fishermen from my district as well as from other areas in eastern Canada, who want to earn their living honestly and energetically, see what has been going on in the House in the last few days, they would be very disappointed with the position taken by some members of the opposition who claim to be concerned about the plight of Canada's fishermen, while, through their illogical—and even valueless—speeches, and through their childish behaviour, they delay the nation's business.

Mr. Chairman, there is not only Quebec—

• (5:40 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. McGrath:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member who is now speaking is imputing motives to the members of this committee who participated in this debate. He is accusing us of holding up the business of the committee.

**Mr. Bécharde:** That is what you are, in fact, doing.

**Mr. McGrath:** I point out to Your Honour, and for the edification of the hon. member who just took his seat, that we have spent less than four hours on this very important part of the bill. I also point out that this is an omnibus bill containing seven distinct bills. I submit that the hon. member should be glad we are at least spending a proportionate period of time on this very important aspect of the bill coming, as he does, from a fishing constituency.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** The hon. member who just spoke said yesterday, in his closing remarks to the Chair, that he would speak on this bill until ice or snow would cover hell.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh oh!

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** That is exactly what he said, and that is a long time.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard):** Order.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Even though it is snowing now, it has not done that.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard):** Order, please.