

Government Orders

otherwise close. But it is not enough. The \$90 million over five years, or \$4 million per province per year, on average, to develop new markets or to go after the existing markets of the foreigners who fish here is not enough from this government. It has to put more money in. It has to forget the free trade agreement because most of the markets for the underutilized species are not in the U.S.

I could talk now about rebuilding the stocks. However, right now I want to bring to the attention of the House a crisis that has developed because of a lack of willingness on the part of officials in the Department of Fisheries to take more interest in the problem.

I understand that fishermen are sitting-in in the fisheries offices in Barrington, Pubnico, Meteghan and Digby. Barrington is in Shelburne County. Shelburne County is 100 per cent dependent on the inshore fishery. Those fishermen are protesting for one very basic reason. They put in a proposal in January or February. It was discussed. They put it in again over a week and a half ago and last week they were getting frustrated. They have not fished. They asked to meet to discuss their proposal on Georges Bank, where the Americans are fishing and taking all they want.

As a result of protests in front of the building in Yarmouth last Tuesday, they came back on Thursday and asked for a meeting in Meteghan yesterday with the department officials. Not one official came. Yet late Friday the department gave a counter proposal which did not relate at all to what the original proposal had been. These fishermen are upset. The department officials do not have any credibility, which is why they did not come to explain why they put forward those counter proposals.

I know my time is up. Perhaps some of my colleagues would like to hear more in the time provided for questions and answers.

I want to say that a very dangerous situation is in existence in the southern end of Nova Scotia today. It is because for over a year the fishermen have asked to meet with the ministers of fishery. I say "ministers" because there has been a change in ministers. They put in a proposal that was countered without any due consideration to all the discussions that had gone on before.

This government has got to start to act. It must listen to the provincial ministers who were there at the meeting yesterday to ask that this government realize the dangerous situation that is now in existence in our area.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member would like some questions or comments. The hon. member for Winnipeg North on a question or comment.

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my colleague for her dissertation on this proposed bill to borrow \$25.5 billion during the current 1990-91 fiscal year to cover the government's budgetary deficit.

During the last part of her presentation on the fishing industry she spoke about how it has been damaged by this government in that part of our country. I would like the hon. member to continue. In a real sense what this government has done is continue to damage the have-not provinces of Canada. If she has some more data, I would appreciate hearing from her.

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the question and for giving me the opportunity to explain.

In the southern end of Nova Scotia we are dealing with an inshore fishery that has been there for a long time. These boats are very efficient. At one time about six years ago you might have 45-foot or 65-foot boats that could go out and easily catch 50,000 pounds to 100,000 pounds of fish.

Quotas have decreased. The last time they were allowed to fish was for a three week period. They were allowed to catch 20,000 pounds over three weeks.

You have to imagine, Mr. Speaker, that these boats have had an opportunity in the past to come in with up to 50,000 pounds of fish. Yet they were given a quota of 20,000 pounds over three weeks.

There was no mesh size, something that they had been asking for, which would allow the escapement of small fish. So they had to do selective catching. They took the big fish which will bring them money, something which the offshore fishermen and the foreigners do as well, which causes a lot of dumping of dead fish.