

He did something that I had hoped he would not do. He talked about there being an easy way. I said: "No, there is no easy way". Knowing him, I do not think he will wait for the way to get easy before he treads it. Let us not get locked into that little red herring. It is not going to be easy.

Functional jurisdiction? I do not believe that if the government accepts this resolution today and does what the resolution says tomorrow, that would solve the problem in one fell swoop. It would trigger a number of new problems. The minister has said that. He implied it a minute ago.

I submit, one, that in the absence of other alternatives, this is a solution which will begin the process of finding a solution. At the moment, Spain and Portugal know that all they can expect from Canada is a visit now and then from the minister. He will come over and lecture them with his admittedly colourful phrasing. He will go back home and they will go on willy-nilly fishing all they want. This is what they have done for the last several years.

The extension of jurisdiction will raise, as the minister alludes, a whole range of problems. What it will do on the positive side is force those people to begin talking about the problem. They do not even talk about it now. Most of them do not even admit there is a problem at the moment. It will begin the process of getting them to the table to begin the process of focusing their minds. If the minister wants to draw some lessons from what happened leading to the 1977 extension, I believe there is a reasonably good parallel how Canada bit the bullet because there were not too many choices other than to stand by and allow the resource to be pillaged. Men like Jamieson and others were not willing to do that. I do not believe men like the present minister are willing to do it much longer.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the previous speaker on the tone of his speech if not on the total content of it.

The motion says to stop further ecological disaster through the pillaging of transboundary fish stocks off the east coast and so on, Canada should take immediate steps to extend its functional jurisdiction to the nose and

tail of the Grand Banks. That would be the area outside the present 200-mile fishing zone.

It is not clear what is meant by this term functional jurisdiction. Nor is it clear why the rest of the world would accept this attempt to extend jurisdiction out in that area. When I asked the question, I did not get an answer really to give me any specificity on that issue. What the motion suggests is action that is premature. It is a non-confidence motion. The government and I will be asking my colleagues to vote against it because it is premature and it is certainly inexplicit as to what Canada has been asked to do.

In starting my comments, let me just point out again that in 1960 there were patches of over 1,100,000 tonnes of cod in this area, going to 1.9 million over the years to 1968. Then it diminished as the pressure reduced the stocks in 1976 when the total catch, foreign and Canadian, was about 400,000 tonnes. During that whole period, Canada and other nations fought to establish the Law of the Sea convention that would give some recognition beyond the 12-mile limit to coastal states with respect to an exclusive fishing zone. That is how long it took when the stocks were really being pillaged, pillaged to heights that no one could even visualize today. It took a period of 10 or 12 years for the Law of the Sea convention to be established and accepted by other nations of the international community because, unless a large preponderance of other nations in the world accept your attempt to extend jurisdiction, of course, your extension of jurisdiction is useless. It will simply lead to confrontation and conflict.

The hon. member of Parliament mentioned something about sovereignty; that our sovereignty was being trammelled. Our sovereignty as a country is certainly recognized within our territorial boundaries and in the 200-mile fishing zone, it is recognized with reference to fisheries matters. The rest of the world recognizes it.

Our sovereignty is not being trammelled today. However, a fish stock or stocks is being trampled upon and in fact is being threatened with extinction because of totally unjustifiable overfishing by certain other nations in the world on the nose and tail of the Grand Banks. That is not a trammelling of our sovereignty, that is a trampling of our common sense. That is a trampling upon the principles of sustainable conservation that the world