

### *Supply*

your latest plan of taking fishermen's licences will certainly ruin a lot of good men's lives and with any luck our incomes will soon be as insignificant to you as we are.

As fishdraggers, we realize that it is the honourable thing for us to step down. We have repeatedly proven that we are much more efficient and productive than your friends at Nat Sea. But we realize that friends are very important in life and by continuing to give them the bulk of the quotas and letting them fish while we are shut down, they may even become self-supporting someday, and make you proud. Doing our part to achieve this is certainly making us proud.

I am a fortunate peasant because by your good graces I am allowed to fish for scallops as well as groundfish. Recently our awaited fall inshore scallop fishery opened and as you've heard, all the scallops have died. I read your press release that we exaggerated the extent of this disaster but I have good news for you, we did not exaggerate one bit. Millions of pounds of previously healthy mature scallops have died and the repercussions on the thousands of people involved in this industry will be devastating. The mortality rate of the scallops is 80-100 per cent in the productive zones and the dying process is still continuing.

In the non-productive zones damage is less but don't worry, these areas will only support the fleet for a few weeks. The loss is easily in the tens of millions of dollars directly to the industry and untold amounts in spin-offs. I feel as a faithful servant it is my duty to give you and your biologists these figures because I'm sure you all have much more pertinent matters to attend.

You have said upon several occasions that your primary concern is to maintain and preserve the stocks. Well everyone makes mistakes and although you allowed the largest scallop beds and the biggest economical boost this area has ever seen to go to ruin, you are still in our good graces. We figure that with the help of you and the Dept. of Fisheries, our inshore zone should recover easily within 10 years.

There are a few of your chosen people I'd like to give a few deserved words of praise.

First and foremost your fisheries officers. These gallant men kept us out of the inshore zone all summer and allowed the poor scallops to die in peace. Even to the last minute before the opening they were on hand to ensure as many scallops as possible could die before we started fishing.

These men are the guards of your marine kingdom and since they now have salaries which double most fishermen they are working even harder to make you proud. Hats off to the gallant men and women in green.

• (1540)

I realize my time is up and I know I will not get agreement from the other side to extend my time to finish the letter. I can only say that it was a good letter and I am sure the minister will be answering it.

**Mr. MacLellan:** Madam Speaker, the concerns raised by my hon. friend are really of tremendous importance to all of us in Atlantic Canada because the fishery is not only an industry that applies in her constituency but touches on all 32 constituencies in Atlantic Canada. The prospects are bleak. It is something the people of Atlantic Canada are not looking forward to. They know bad news now. They are largely waiting for another shoe to drop. It is not a pleasant experience.

In addition to the other problems we have in Atlantic Canada, we feel let down. We feel betrayed by this government first and foremost because it refuses to admit there is a problem. The government continues to say that the fishery is in a good state of health, that there is no problem with the Atlantic Canadian fishery.

I would just like to ask my hon. friend, the member of Parliament from South West Nova, exactly what she has been able to hear and experience in her riding about the state of the health of the fishery.

**Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova):** Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for asking me about what I have been able to hear. I certainly have tried to tell this minister and the people down there have tried to tell him as well as the premier that this minister is on a collision course with the fishery. I thought that the letter that I was reading showed exactly what was in the minds of everybody.

The fisherman went on to say that:

Likewise to your biologist we bear no malice. We realize that the research needed to warn of this impending disaster could never be justified in face of the huge enforcement costs to protect the dying scallops. As far as groundfish goes, proper assessments of stocks could only be made by true fishermen and this is never done—who needs accurate assessments on which to base quota anyway? Not us, we're always tied up.

Also your media men deserve praise. The way they faithfully print distorted truths about the Fisheries and live with themselves after must take amazing strength and courage. We all realize the public must be deceived on matters of the fishery. It is the only way things will run smooth in your government.

Praise last but not least should ought to go to the justice system—

I will not go through that. He goes on: