

Supply

countries by the Government of Canada to fish within 12 miles of our coast. That is where our inshore fishermen fish. They are not fishing offshore. They are fishing in the area that our inshore fishermen fish with boats that are 300 feet and 400 feet long in some cases. These are gigantic floating fishplants. Each one of them is a fishplant. There are 250 fishplants fishing all around the coastline 12 miles off our coast licensed by the Government of Canada while the Government of Canada is trying to find out what economic aid to give to Nova Scotians and Newfoundlanders who are being laid off. Has foreign aid been replaced by fish aid? Is that what has happened here? The unemployed fishplant workers and the fishermen want to limit the 200-mile limit to Canadians. They want to restrict it so that they can use that resource.

The Government of Canada can talk all it wants and try to persuade foreign nations to do this, that and the other thing 200 miles or more off the coast of Canada, but we are asking a simple question. Why give the Polish Government licences to fish grey sole? Why, on Friday, did the Government give the Faro Islands 15 licences to fish turbot? That is turbot that we fish. Why is the Government going to give the East Germans another 20 or 30 factory freezer trawler licences to fish the very fish that we fish?

Just listen to the list of fish that they will be able to catch, Mr. Speaker: cod, redfish, halibut, silver hake, witch—that is flounder—squid, capelin, grenadier. Perhaps we do not need grenadier. We do not fish it. It is a deep water fish, a little scrawny fish with a big head, like some politicians we know. We do not need that fish, that is fine. The list also includes the poor beagle shark, as I mentioned before. Why issue licences to countries to fish at all? If they need that fish, why not catch it and sell it to them? In the meantime, do not issue licences that have been refused to Canadian boats. Every Member here on the east coast has constituents who wanted capelin licences this year.

• (1140)

There are hundreds and hundreds of boat owners who cannot get capelin licences, and they are looking out at the Russian fleet now, 12 miles off the coast of Newfoundland, fishing capelin. The problem is in their own backyard. We do not want the future of Eastern Canada and our fishery to be run like a social club in External Affairs. We want justice. We want those licences can-

celled. The first thing the Government of Canada must do is to clean up its own act.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): No further questions or comments. Debate. The Hon. Minister of Public Works.

Mr. Gauthier: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): A point of order. The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, all Parties have had negotiations concerning the length of speeches today. I have a proposal that could be a start toward allowing more Members to debate. For today, the Opposition Parties would propose that after the first three speakers have concluded their remarks, the Opposition Parties be allowed to divide the times allowed to them into two periods each of 10 minutes, followed by five minutes each for questions and comments. In other words, the Opposition Parties elect today to divide their 20 minutes plus 10 into two periods of 10 plus five. The Government may want to do that, but I am told that for today the short notice does not allow for that. If that could be made an order of the House, I would appreciate it.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, we on the Government side have no problem with this. We think it is a good idea that may have some future application to all the different Parties. The one thing we would want to make sure of is that we as a Government keep our full time-slots available to us today because of the subject matter and because of the points we wish to make on this particular debate. But we have no problem with that proposition. We are quite happy to agree to the Opposition Members splitting their time.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, we also agree with the suggestion. It was brought up at a Whips' meeting last week. Just so the public understands what we are doing, we are allowing more members to speak on the issue of Atlantic Canada today. It is our belief that this does not necessarily set a precedent, but it will be something that we will deal with as each Opposition motion comes up. Perhaps the Government may wish to deal with some of its bills in the same way. However, we do not believe it