

*Government Orders*

penalties being increased for true violations—that does not discriminate between violators that are inshore, offshore, foreigners or American.

**Mr. Ross Reid (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I will try to be very brief. I just want to correct a few things that have been said and point out a couple of things because I think it would be unfortunate to leave some of the impressions that are out there.

First of all, if I may comment on Canso. I cannot recall how many weeks it was in this House that the opposition called for a solution to the problem at Canso. This government, in co-operation with a couple of small fish companies, was able, with the support of the government of Nova Scotia, the unions and the community of Canso, put together a deal that has not only saved that community but I suggest, it saved Burgeo as well. If you want to tell Bill Barry, a little fellow from Curling, Newfoundland, he is a big corporate company, I am sure he would be delighted. I am sure he lies in bed at night dreaming about the day that he is a corporate giant, but it is not the case right now.

If we can take underutilized species and be creative, as we have tried in the past to do, as we are spending tens of millions of dollars today in trying to do, we can save fish plants and communities and to enhance our fishery. In the past, things like silver hake have not been taken up because they do not suit our markets, our consumers or our way of fishing. If we can have others who come in and participate in those fisheries, all the better, we might make some progress.

I have heard a couple of times the comment that we do not go into other people's waters. It is a long way to go to other people's waters, except the United States. The hon. member has no concept of economy. A country like Portugal and Spain can afford to come to Canada. First of all, they have no options. The Portuguese are also fishing off Mozambique, Angola and the Falkland Islands. They are a little south of the fishing grounds. Why? Because they have no choice. The efforts of this government, supported quite a bit by members of this House in trying to reduce overfishing, have been relatively successful.

• (1620)

There has been great co-operation from all parties in this House to try and bring to the attention of the

Europeans the need for action. I would suggest the results of the last NAFO meeting have shown that there has been some success there.

With regard to this problem of the department taking advice from its scientists and advice from its officials, the advice that is taken by the government is based on scientific advice of the best professionals available. We increased the amount of money that we spent on science and northern cod last year by \$30 million. Of the \$584 million we put in to increase our ability to deal with the problems in the fishery, a huge amount of that was directed toward increased science, not just the northern cod stock, but in the gulf off South West Nova and other areas like that.

With regard to the comment about the Bay of Fundy, my hon. friend had better be very careful. What we have said is that we would take the responsibility of providing the best advice from professionals, not amateurs like politicians. It is not in the interest of the fishermen.

With reference to section 61, empowering the government to collection information, Dr. Harris in his report made it very clear that we needed more information, more knowledge. We have the power to do that in a number of areas. This action makes sure we can collect that information if we so desire and need it. It is in the interests of fishermen that we have that information.

The hon. member knows and I know well enough, that you cannot go in and say to inshore fishermen: "You must take the sex, weight, size and age of every fish before you do anything with it." Be sensible. That is ludicrous. We have programs whereby we bring scientists together with fishermen, at the union level, at the community level. We are saying to fishermen: "You are a little bit special because you are part of this program". We are giving them a designation. It has worked very, very well in New Brunswick. We are doing more of it.

In Newfoundland, Mr. Larry Cody, one of the best scientists in this government has been out dealing and meeting with fishermen, asking fishermen what they do and asking fishermen for their advice. The thought that we could go in or we would or could go in and go through what the hon. member has talked about is absolutely ludicrous.