

Our Canada will be our children's Canada and their children's Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

● (2050)

**Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey my congratulations to Madam Speaker on her elevation to this high office as Speaker of the House. I would also like to congratulate you, sir, on your appointment as Acting Speaker. These positions that you and Madam Speaker hold are very important. I know that Madam Speaker as well as the Deputy Speaker and the Acting Speakers will grow in their jobs and in their experience.

I represent the riding of Nanaimo-Alberni which is located on the west coast of Vancouver Island comprising a midsection of the island, including the west coast and the east coast of Vancouver Island. The riding was previously represented by a very well-known Canadian, Mr. T. C. Douglas. I have often been asked how it feels to follow in the footsteps of Tommy Douglas, but I do not think I can really answer that question. I do not think I am following in his footsteps any more than many other people in Canada are doing in terms of the leadership he has shown in economic and social issues. I know that the people of Nanaimo-Alberni and Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands, which was his riding before redistribution, are proud of Tommy and are proud that his riding is now represented by two members of the NDP, myself, and in the southern half of the riding by the hon. member for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands (Mr. Manly).

Before I pursue an issue in which I am particularly interested in my role as the New Democratic Party fisheries critic, I will take a few moments to describe my riding. It is a riding of which I am very fond and very proud. I do not particularly want to expand on the virtues of Nanaimo-Alberni all that much, because there are those who really do not want too many more people coming to the riding to live, to bring with them the kinds of problems that overpopulation may bring. It would also lessen my opportunity to represent both sides of the island because of its bigger population.

Nanaimo was built as a coal mining town starting in the 1850s. It got its start through coal, and it looks as though coal is going to be an important aspect of Nanaimo again.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Coal is king.

**Mr. Miller:** Yes, coal is king. Unfortunately for the 1850s and possibly the 1980s it looks as though coal will be shipped out and with it the jobs associated with the manufacture of steel products. The coal resource leases on Vancouver Island are apparently being purchased by oil companies. These are companies that have made profits in oil and are now looking for other resources to exploit and thus gain control of those energy resources, keeping the control of them away from the hands of the Canadian public.

There is a very important lumber, fishing and shipping terminal in Nanaimo. It is a wealthy productive town and

shares with Port Alberni the distinction of being a very large and important west coast port for the lumber industry. There are over 6,000 woodworkers in the city of Port Alberni and the surrounding area. It is also an important fishing community, being a west coast port with a sheltered harbour and facilities for fishermen, recreational vessels and deep sea vessels.

On the west coast, communities called Ucluelet and Tofino, and many native Indian reserves share one of the most beautiful areas in all of Canada, that is, the west coast and Pacific Rim Park. Last year this area attracted 750,000 tourists to those two small communities on the west coast. These numbers are expected to increase this year. The riding is well represented and well financed through fishing, lumber and the tourist industry. It also has a large and growing small business community which is at the moment struggling under the burden of high interest rates and the experience of two consecutive governments which have been unable to alleviate the pains that high interest rates are causing to the people.

In my riding fishing is the area that is now of most concern in B.C. One must not forget the forest industry nor the fact that the two do not often go hand in hand. There are a lot of accusations that logging practices in B.C. have destroyed many of the natural producing streams for Pacific salmon. I think that is a justifiable criticism of the forest industry. It is a lack of co-ordination of activities between the fishing industry and the forest industry. But, given the right kind of determination and programs, this co-ordination could be brought about.

Canada has a bright future in the fishing industry. We are all aware that Canada has adopted a 200-mile economic zone off our coasts, and that 200-mile zone gives us control over the management of the stocks. This is particularly so on the east coast of Canada where we have seen an increase in the cod stocks, hopefully back to the record periods. Estimates are that by 1985 we will have doubled the productivity in the cod stocks on the east coast of Canada.

The expectations of that have brought to the east coast fisherman an influx into the industry, and are probably causing a situation where we have too many fishermen chasing what will always be too few fish.

On the west coast, expectations in the fishing industry are also high. They are not so much because of the 200-mile economic zone because we are not fortunate enough to have a large continental shelf and the productivity this demonstrates in the eastern provinces. But in B.C. we have a very lucrative fish, namely, the Pacific salmon. This species is much demanded in Japan, the United States, and in Europe.

In 1977 we also implemented under the present minister the salmon enhancement program. The expectations of the program are that we will be able to produce by the year 2007 190 million more salmon per year than we are doing right now. That productivity is entirely possible if this resource is managed properly. However, if it is managed the way it has been managed recently, it will not be attained.