

*Private Members' Business*

However, in this seven-month period there were no reports of any arrests by this patrol vessel during its tour of duty.

After countless efforts by the government, countless speeches and countless efforts by this side of the House to enforce Canadian jurisdiction over the nose and tail of the banks, that little portion outside the 200-mile zone that we have not been able to control, on December 21, 1992, when everybody was away starting their Christmas holidays on the Monday of Christmas week, the government came out with a press release. It said: "Finally an agreement has been reached to end serious and long-standing fishing problems with the European Community".

What did all this mean? It meant that the European Community one more time said it was not going to transgress against NAFO allocations and was not going to catch any fish. Why was it not going to catch any fish? There is no fish there to catch. It is a perfectly logical thing for the European Community to do. When all our fish have disappeared the trawlers are tied up and Newfoundland and Atlantic Canadian fishermen cannot go fishing any more. Is it any wonder that the European Community agree with our government who says: "If you promise not to fish, we will do a whole bunch of things for you".

One of the things we did was to open up our ports to these communities because they are not going to fish anymore. I wonder if they went out to fish off the Grand Banks what they would catch. The House of Commons is not the place to say what I hope they would catch.

As I understand this agreement, the Europeans have agreed to Canadian observers but only on 10 per cent of their boats. This means that when they decide to fish, when the fish stocks come back, and perhaps even before our trawlermen get out to fish, on 90 per cent of their ships, fishing boats and vessels they will fish unobserved.

The minister of fisheries is quoted as saying in the local newspaper in St. John's, Newfoundland: "We have every protection in this agreement". Closer to the truth

is that this enthusiastic attempt to convince Canadians is not very convincing in my mind.

How can we pretend to get very much that is reasonable out of those who have always been so blatantly unreasonable and, as the restrictions on the observers suggest, will continue to be so. The best thing about this deal announced on Christmas week is that it can be cancelled with 60 days notice.

An identical motion to this was put forward by the opposition on March 12 and unfortunately it was defeated by the government. I would have to say in the presence of my colleagues that the Liberal caucus has consistently called upon the government to implement NAFO's powers of enforcement. Otherwise the relevance of the organization must be questioned, and that is exactly what I am doing today. I am questioning that relevance.

The Liberal Party has stated that in the event these initiatives fail Canada must move to attain functional fisheries jurisdiction over the entire continental shelf, which would include the nose and tail of the banks. That is what my motion reflects.

Roughly one year ago at a policy convention a resolution was passed with the stick-handling of many of us on this side of the House. The entire convention agreed with the resolution that the Government of Canada should move toward international negotiations, and failing that unilaterally declare that the nose and tail of the Grand Banks falls within Canada's economic zone.

I have spent a lot of time and effort with international lawyers asking them if this is possible. I admit there is not total agreement. This is a judgment thing. Which side your judgment comes down on I suppose might rest on which side of the House you sit. I hope not because it is my belief that when you go forward to the International Marine Court of Justice and argue your case the precedent allows you to argue on the future of a country's economy and the future of the people who are affected by that economy.

• (1720)

If it had been decided when I first did my research on this five years ago that it was worth a try, and Canada may well be successful at a time when our northern cod stocks were declining, I would have to conclude that at a