

Government Orders

What are all the large foreign trawlers and freezer factory ships that are out there getting? They are getting the traditional fish, not just silver hake, and they are interrupting the spawning grounds of the local fishery.

The federal government's record of scientific analysis has been poor as we saw in northern cod. As a result stocks have been reduced leaving fishermen who have invested in expensive sophisticated equipment often with federal and provincial encouragement holding the bag. They have also lost markets due to the high interest rates and the artificially high Canadian dollar that has resulted, that is if they have a market.

The two counties I represent, Digby and Yarmouth, as well as Shelburne county represented by my colleague from South Shore had markets for many years but they do not have them today because they do not have fish. They do not have to worry about high interest rates or the dollar. They could sell fish. Their fish has always been known to be the best. The offshore has fish in the markets, but what they put into the markets sometimes leaves a lot to be desired. I am saying that if they even had fish they could be marketing and helping themselves.

Only about one-quarter of the government's total aid package, \$120 million out of the \$584 million over five years, will be devoted to finding new jobs for plant workers. In terms of new money in the aid package, there is very little: \$426 million over five years, averaging out to \$108 million per province over five years or \$20 million per province per year. This is for an industry that has over 100,000 workers and generates \$1 billion in business income annually.

More money has been made available for developing underutilized species and marketing in that fish aid package. I think the amount was \$50 million to establish markets in underutilized species such as silver hake. Last week there were 20 Russian boats out there on Brown's Bank and in the silver hake box the 42 foreigners who were fishing up at the easterd. "Easterd" is a term to say that you are southeast of Halifax, probably in the same area as Brown's. There are still foreigners fishing there when our fishermen could not be there.

If we had more money to put into underutilized markets, we would find that our offshore would perhaps

be given an incentive to go after the underutilized. Back when we had the northern cod, ironically as it sounds, and nobody wanted to fish it, the Liberal government of the day gave an incentive for the offshore to go and fish the northern cod. In fact it was a very healthy incentive. It was so much a pound to the boat. It was capped around \$13,000 for the boat trip; \$15,000 if you came from Nova Scotia and \$13,000 in Newfoundland. However, they paid part of the insurance because it was supposed to be treacherous waters for those boats to go to the offshore for northern cod. As well, they put an observer on those boats.

We cannot have that type of program today because of the free trade agreement. Even the bail-out last week could not be given directly to the fish plants or to the boats. It had to be given to communities, if it is going to be given at all, and to laid off workers in the adjustment program. It could not be given directly to the fishery because of the free trade agreement and it being considered a subsidy to those offshore companies.

So you give a gift to National Sea. They get to keep the companies. They get to keep the boats. They can take the boats away from Lockeport, Canso, and North Sydney without blinking an eye. Our provincial government is allowing it. Our federal government is allowing it. Why? Because they are sitting there opposite allowing big business to take over what used to be a healthy inshore fishery.

I want to go back to the underutilized because I think that is the direction this government must go if it is going to save the fishery. If we send the offshore out to fish the underutilized, the foreigners would not need to come because we would be utilizing the fish within our 200-mile limit. It is so simple, but it seems to be hard for this government to understand that if we fish the underutilized here in Canada, the foreigners will not come and fish within our 200-mile limit. We will not have those big offshore foreign trawlers taking 400,000 pounds of fish a trip when our boats are limited to 2,000 pounds if they can even go out in the course of one week.

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More money has been made available for developing underutilized species and marketing directed at maintaining the processing capacity at plants that would