

important income for people both in the Magdalen Islands and in Newfoundland. What is even more important for us in the Magdalen Islands, is that we have a system whereby every ounce of liver and of seal meat can be used. We can take every ounce of oil and process it and it will all go on the market.

[*English*]

I am a former farmer. I did slaughtering on my barn floor. You go to a slaughterhouse for pork or chicken, nobody worries about it. They hang the pigs up, cut their throats and they bleed to death.

They have a reasonable harvest of the seal herd. There is no problem, and I would hope for the environmentalists and for the Greenpeace people and the hon. member for Gander—Grand Falls from the other side of the floor will support me in this, to do a reasonable harvest of the seals, we will bring more money to Newfoundlanders, more money for the Magdalen Islands, have a good economy and we will not hurt the environment because the seals are hurting our northern cod stocks.

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the hon. member's intervention here this afternoon.

Can the member help me out here a little bit? Given that there has been a charitable action by the minister of fisheries with the stroke of a pen to issue licences to other countries to enter our waters, to fish in our waters, to rob the livelihood of those who depend on the fishery, given that kind of charity, I ask first whether the member could tell me: would he not agree with me that charity should begin at home?

The second question is: Can the hon. member opposite tell me what other country on this entire planet allows foreigners to jump on their vessels and go into the waters of other countries and to fish in those waters? Can he give me that figure?

Mr. Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I thought one of my principal points when I was making my statement was that we would try to keep this non-partisan.

I guess my hon. colleague does not want to keep it that way. I will say one thing. Having been in the House of Commons for seven and one-half years and regardless of political stripe, the thing that angers and ires me the most is to hear downtown metro people talking about

seals from Newfoundland or the Magdalen Islands when they do not know what in the hell they are talking about. I do not like it.

If they want to be partisan, I will give an answer. When talking about overfishing, I do not set the rules, you do not set the rules. International law and international trade are things that have been established, but when it is said that we are giving licences to foreigners to the detriment of our own people, there is not a Conservative government, there is not a Liberal government, there is no other government that does not look after the rights of Canadians.

We may differ how we look after them, but the insinuation that the hon. member makes that we are looking after the foreigners and not looking after Canadians gives dishonour, not only to the hon. member, but also to his party.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Patrick Boyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have a very short question for the hon. member for Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine. I have been in his riding, both in winter and summer, to watch the seals and visit the Magdalen islands with their typical island economy. I would like to ask a very short question about the role played by seals in the islands' economy, since he said this was very important. I agree with what he said, but one of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Seals and Sealing in Canada—

[*English*]

In the report of the Royal Commission on Seals and Sealing in Canada recommendation 39 states: "The non-consumptive use of seals such as the viewing of seal herds should be encouraged subject to appropriate regulatory measures to protect the animals and their habitat".

• (1350)

[*Translation*]

I would like the hon. member to comment on ecotourism, a new dimension of his riding's economy, because I am sure it is a very important factor.

Mr. Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member, who has already been to the Magdalen Islands two or three times.