

the wharf. There is debris sticking out and a vessel could be destroyed. It is going to get worse as time goes on. We need to spend the dollars now. If a window blows out of a building and we do not repair it and a door blows off, after a while the building will fall down. If we put a few dollars into wharf repair now, we will have the wharfs in a proper condition and the fishermen of Atlantic Canada will at least be able to fish.

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment my colleague from Cardigan for a very balanced and comprehensive overview of this legislation and of many other matters affecting fisheries policy.

I would also like to pay tribute to his excellent work on the committee studying Bill C-74. As other members who participated in that committee will know, he was a very diligent and hard working member. He spoke well on behalf of the fishermen in his riding and indeed, of all the Gulf of St. Lawrence region.

• (1640)

I would like to note as well that he moved an amendment to this legislation which would have provided additional protection for lobster fishermen. That amendment, had the government seen fit to accept it—I still do not understand why they would not—would have benefited not only the fishermen in his area but the lobster fishermen in my area as well.

Indeed, the member mentioned a number of points of concern in his remarks on which I would ask him to embellish if he would. As he said, we support the principle of higher, more stringent fines for fisheries violations, particularly in this time when the resource has been declining and where the consequences for this industry are dramatic.

There remains a concern, particularly with the resource declining, of the application of these fines and especially of the fact that it seems that those most vulnerable will be the inshore fishermen. I want to ask the member, particularly with his great knowledge of the inshore fishery in his area, whether he believes that the act by itself will be sufficient to protect those inshore fishermen.

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Also, in his opening remarks he mentioned the individual transferable quotas, which was a recommendation of the Haché task force, concerning the licensing for a large segment of the fishery. He made a point that I think is very relevant not only to the immediate debate of Bill C-74 but to fisheries policies in general. These individual transferable quotas, if not properly regulated, can have a devastating effect on the smaller fisherman who will be facing reduced catches. The quota will not be enough for the small fisherman to survive. Consequently we will see a gradual buying out of the smaller fisherman by larger fishing firms. I would like to ask the member for Cardigan if that is not a fear that he has about the fishermen in his area with respect to this individual transferable quota and other policies of this government.

Finally, the hon. member made a plea for greater expenditure on wharf construction. I could not agree with him more, but I also want to note that part of this government's plan has been the fisheries adjustment package which if my memory serves me right has not been of great value to the fishermen of Prince Edward Island. Perhaps he would like to comment on that as well.

Mr. MacAulay: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my hon. colleague from Cape Breton. Of course we are very concerned about individual transferable quotas and that the fishery will be swallowed up by larger companies. Fines are adequate, but the problem is that we do not have DFO properly staffed to take care of the offshore. One of the prime examples would be in our area when Summerside air force base was closed, and the Tracker aircraft removed. This was something that should not have happened.

Concerning wharf repair in my district, I could go on for the day. It is a continuous battle to get a small amount of wharf repair, even general maintenance, in Cardigan in particular. For example, a \$25,000 job after just one windstorm can become a \$300,000 job. Shortly after that it becomes a million dollar job. If the fishermen do not have wharfs, there is no fishery.

Without a doubt we support the bill. But we need money for DFO and we need more wharf repair.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Madam Speaker, I am delighted to have an opportunity to participate in this rather rare moment of support for government legisla-