

### Supply

They have a group of scientists who look each year at what we should be catching without destroying the stock. Then they give quotas to their various countries. All the countries stay within that quota, except the European Community which beginning in 1985 began to transgress the quota.

Starting in 1985 or 1986 NAFO said there ought to be a moratorium, there ought to be no northern cod caught, and instructed its members to abide by that moratorium. Since 1986 when no cod were supposed to be caught, we have had the Spanish and Portuguese, through their membership in EC and NAFO, catching 400,000 tonnes that they were not supposed to catch. Last year alone they caught 47,000 tonnes that they were not supposed to catch. That is slaughter.

That is one example, but only one of many we could give, were there time.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a two-part question. The motion suggests that we should take immediate steps to extend something called functional jurisdiction to the nose and tail of the Grand Banks.

I have a chart here that shows the cod harvest in the northwest Atlantic from 1960 to 1991. In 1960 over 1.1 million tonnes of cod were taken. It keeps climbing up to 1968, 1.9 million tonnes, mostly by foreign fishermen. Then it starts to descend as the cod stocks were getting wiped out. In 1976, 1977, 1978 the total catch of everybody was down to about 400,000 tonnes, Canadian and foreign. In 1977 of course there was a 200-mile economic zone established when the nations of the world had reached a consensus that they would accept this and would recognize it if a country took over not jurisdiction, but extended an economic zone out 200 miles from its coast.

My question is this: If a country could simply just extend functional jurisdiction and solve the problem, why did the government of those days—and for most of the period it was a Liberal government—not simply extend functional jurisdiction from 12 miles, as it was, the jurisdiction that was accepted in those days, out to

200 or out to the nose and tail of the banks so that the whole problem would never have occurred of overfishing on the Grand Banks? We would not have had 1.9 million tonnes taken in 1968 and the like. That is one part of my question. If there is some easy solution, why did our predecessors not take this easy solution?

The other part of my question is this: What exactly is functional jurisdiction? Would the hon. gentleman tell us, is it likely that the other sovereign states of the world, particularly high seas fishing countries, industrial states like the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, et cetera, would accept this as being a norm that they are prepared to accept all over the world, whatever this is, functional jurisdiction beyond 200 miles?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Questions and comments period is now over, but is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Simmons:** I thank my friend from St. John's West and I thank the House for giving me unanimous consent, which I promise not to abuse. I will be brief and to the point.

The minister is absolutely right that of course up until especially around 1968 there was a real pillaging going on out there. In fairness, and not to play politics with him, but he and I had membership in the same party in those days. He and I were in relatively equal positions to advise the government of that particular day.

• (1050)

I would hope that some of the wisdom that he passed on, as I am confident of some of the wisdom that I have passed on, had the effect which was triggered in the 1970s, where men like the late Don Jamieson and the late Dan McDonald, Senator MacEachen and others like Romeo LeBlanc led the charge. They essentially did what is being advocated here. It is true they went out and attempted to do what the minister is attempting to do these days, to get as many allies out there as they could. Eventually, they bit the bullet. He is right, they might have been a little late in doing it. That is the charge we are making of this particular administration right now, if there is a charge.