

*Supply*

unilaterally set quotas much higher than those set by the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization. This situation has been permitted to prevail by the Government. It must now account for the disaster facing the Canadian fishing industry.

• (1550)

The Government's concentrated attack on Atlantic Canada includes the undermining of transfer payments, which seriously threatens to harm health care and post-secondary education. It includes the Government's withdrawal of contributions to unemployment insurance, which virtually ensures that people in this region will have to depend on the welfare rolls in order to make ends meet. It includes the closing of rural post offices and a whole slew of other mean-spirited initiatives.

In conclusion, Atlantic Canada should not be victimized by the Tory Government's drastic cuts. This region entered Confederation for very specific reasons, and the present Government has no mandate to undermine the nation building which has gone on for more than 100 years.

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## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

### SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Halifax (Ms. Clancy)—Status of Women—Refusal to meet with NAC—Reduced funding to women's groups / Resignation of President of PC Women's Federation; the Hon. Member for Nanaimo—Cowichan (Mr. Stupich)—External Affairs—Drift-net fishing—Agreement with Japanese / Observers on fishing vessels; the Hon. Member for South West Nova (Mrs. Campbell)—Fisheries—Closure of fish plants—Quotas / Cape North factory freezer trawler.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

### SUPPLY

#### ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 81—ALLEGED ECONOMIC DEVASTATION IN ATLANTIC CANADA

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Baker:

That this House condemns the Government for initiating a series of policies that are causing unprecedented economic devastation to Atlantic Canada.

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to participate in this debate on Atlantic development. At the outset let me say that it is not just a regional issue affecting Atlantic Canada but a national issue that concerns the fundamental character of the country. It is an issue that addresses one of the challenges Canada has faced since Confederation, the equitable sharing of opportunities across all parts of this country, the opportunities which being Canadian ought to provide.

Every weekend I travel back and forth to and from my riding. As I travel from Ottawa to my riding of Cape Breton Highlands—Canso I see concrete manifestations of the challenge we face in promoting regional development in Atlantic Canada.

Let me cite three examples. The community of Whycomagh is located in central Cape Breton along the Bras d'Or Lakes. It is a picturesque community with lots of potential for tourism and for aquaculture. However, it is stranded because it does not have basic sewer and water services. It is caught in a catch-22 situation. For the lack of some \$1 million in federal funding, it has been denied sewer and water for years. Without sewer and water there is no business development and no expansion of the tax base to pay for the sewer and water.

Another example is the Strait of Canso, one of the best deep water ports in the world. The potential for the port and the industries that could develop around it are still unrealized. Much has to be done to make that port a source of jobs for our area.

The third example is Antigonish, the site of St. Francis Xavier University, one of the best undergraduate colleges in North America. When I was at the convocation a couple of weeks ago I realized that most of the students