

I do have some empathy for my friend from Cardigan. As was discussed in the committee, the problem is that section 25 now deals not with fishing gear per se but with stakes, posts, buoys and other materials placed for fishing purposes. There is quite a difference.

The flexibility that he talks about, unfortunately, is not there. For that reason, I regret to say that, despite discussions and attempts, we cannot accept this amendment. The government will vote against it.

In the interests of dealing with report stage, I think you will find unanimous consent that we not see the clock at six o'clock, and agreement that we can be through this probably by 6.20 p.m. or 6.30 p.m., finish report stage and move on after that.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, our party is prepared to agree with that with the one proviso: that there be a time limit on this extension for the purposes of dealing with report stage only, that it not extend beyond 6.30 p.m. If by any chance, it would not be completed by then, we can further consult.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is that agreed?

**Mr. Gardiner:** We will agree to that.

**Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls):** Mr. Speaker, just for the record, the hon. member for Cardigan who brought in this amendment is absolutely correct.

Everything that the member said is absolutely correct. There is not one reason that the government can cite for not accepting his amendment. It is an outrage to make every fisherman a criminal if a season closes while he has gear in the water.

In other words, if the season closes at midnight and the announcement is made at 6 p.m., the fisherman is a criminal if the fisheries officer does not extend him the privilege of picking up his gear.

If it is bad weather, how bad? How big is his boat? Does he feel he can make it while another guy feels he cannot make it? Suppose Sunday is the next day. A lot of people respect Sunday and they will not go on the water. A lot of people. That is why the two-day notice was there in the first place in the act. It is outrageous, it is unbelievable. It really is an absolute outrage for the Government of Canada to place fishermen in Canada in the position that it is doing under this bill.

### *Government Orders*

• (1800)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is the House ready for the question? Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Negatived on division.

Motion No. 2 negatived.

**Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley)** moved:

That Bill C-74 be amended by adding immediately after line 6 at page 5 the following new clause:

"11.(1) The said Act is amended by adding thereto, immediately after section 42 thereof, the following section:

"42.(1) The Minister shall, as soon as possible after the end of each fiscal year, prepare and cause to be laid before Parliament a report on the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to fish habitat protection and pollution prevention for that year.

(2) The annual report shall include a statistical summary of convictions under section 40 for that year."

He said: Mr. Speaker, it certainly is a pleasure to have a chance to speak on Bill C-74 in the House today. I will be as brief as I can to make some of the points on my Motion No. 3, which you so graciously considered to present before the House, and, of course, I look forward to future debate and discussion on this bill when it returns to the House for third reading.

First, I would like to say how very interesting the witnesses we heard were when we were discussing this bill. We had witnesses from both coasts who gave us a firsthand account of their views about the fishing industry and, in particular, their concerns and comments on Bill C-74. That ranged from discussions about general offences, catch reporting, and what have you. A number of representations from the west coast in particular included concerns regarding habitat protection, which is the particular reference that I make in my amendment to the bill.

I am pleased to see that the government has seen fit to support this amendment. We did debate it in committee. There were some differences, but I am glad to see that on second thought the government can see the importance of my amendment. It will require the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to table in Parliament, annually, a report "on the administration and enforcement of the provisions of the act relating to fish habitat protection