

*Supply*

livelihood. We had a very active and progressive program of construction and maintenance of small craft harbours before May 22. Since that date the only activity on any small craft harbour was the one put in place before the election, whereby the Canada Works program is paying for the cost of labour and the Department of Fisheries is paying for the materials. I hope I have not made a mistake in stating that, and all of a sudden the funds for materials will be cut. In any case, we are not receiving the emphasis on fisheries on the part of the government which we should.

Being from Newfoundland the minister has high hopes for the development of the petroleum industry in the offshore waters of that province. I understand that, and I hope it happens. But I remind him—and I hope he will remind the Minister of Finance, the local practitioner of buffoonery in the House—that long after scientists have come up with alternate sources of energy, and petroleum no longer has the value it has today, the products swimming around in our marine waters will be vital for the sustenance of the population of the world. It will still be the most valuable resource of the eastern provinces of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McGrath:** Right on.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** I hope the government will change its attitude and not continue with the one which seems to be prevalent now, that it is petroleum versus fish, because it should not be so. All of the resources of this nation should not be going into one basket. We should continue to develop fisheries, but unless we have funds from the government to provide the necessary tools for fishermen to do their jobs, they will not be able to do them.

Also we have witnessed the spectacle of the large processors dictating their positions to fishermen as to what they will receive for their products, when, and where they will be able to sell it. We have witnessed the spectacle of the local, small, individual processors, small businessmen whom the government pretends to represent, being told, "No, you cannot enlarge your plant; you cannot get a subsidy from DREE. Even though DREE is willing to give it to you, we are not willing to agree because there are not sufficient quantities of fish." They are being told this when in fact right now plants do not have the capacity to hold the fish which fishermen want to sell them. Where are the minister and his officials when such idiotic decisions are made?

Will the policy for fisheries in Atlantic Canada be dictated by the large processors, the three or four large companies which must have made healthy donations to the Tory party? An important question is: will it be decided by the minister and the department in consultation with the people who risk their lives to bring in fish stocks?

The government has been in power for approximately six months, and already we see that patronage is more important than progress; the large processors are more important than fishermen; it is more concerned with the desires of provincial

[Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi).]

ministers and local Tory hacks than with the series of fishermen and the orderly development of the fishery.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** How long will this continue? When will the minister stop being a pussycat? When will he become the rabble rouser he was in opposition? When will he stand up to the Minister of Finance?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I appreciate the hon. member's anger; he wants to exhibit it. But I should like to indicate that there have been consultations among House leaders with respect to the availability of ministers for questioning during consideration of this bill before Committee of the Whole. Arrangements have been made for the following ministers to be present: the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who is here now, the minister in charge of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Arrangements were made to have these ministers available to answer questions from hon. members. The process that we are engaged in is a very good one in terms of the ability of members of Parliament to question ministers. I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, because I know he feels strongly about the subject, and he can make his own judgment as to how he wishes to use his time, but the ministers are here and prepared to answer questions.

● (1530)

**The Chairman:** Of course I have no authority over the contributions made by hon. members. These agreements do not restrict the right of members to express in their own way their opinions.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Mr. Chairman, in total, including the interruptions I have suffered from ministers of the Crown, I have used up about seven minutes. I know that the chief government whip will be happy to hear that I am just about finished, because he does not like to hear the truth any more than some of the ministers. They do not like to be shown up for the kind of petty patronage players they are.

**Mr. Nystrom:** They learn from you, Maurice.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Now we have the happy socialists to my left tripping in. I am sure that the hon. member who is interrupting knows a lot about fish. Probably the only fish he has ever seen are the ones in the Parliamentary Restaurant.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Especially Liberals.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** I was about to wind up my remarks when I was interrupted by the government House leader. The government and the other opposition