

EXPORT OF UNPROCESSED FISH

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister not simply to rely on what we say on this side of the House. One of his own Members, the Member for South Shore, said recently in reference to the export of unprocessed fish from Nova Scotia, which the Minister for International Trade has acknowledged is leaving at a rate of 80 million pounds a year, is costing Nova Scotians 1,000 jobs. If the export of that unprocessed fish from Nova Scotia is costing 1,000 jobs, why does not the same reasoning apply to British Columbia? Are we not getting the same proportionate loss of jobs? Why does the Minister not honestly admit it?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, under the previous discriminatory regulations which were not GATT consistent, there was no protection to ensure that our chinook, coho and chum salmon would be brought to Canadian shores, thereby providing additional opportunities for that fish to be processed in British Columbia. The new regulations ensure that all five species of British Columbia salmon and herring shall be brought to shore, and landed at Canadian ports. We expect, therefore, that it will be processed there.

• (1430)

I might add that if we do not intend to play in the international trading arena by exporting our fish products, 80 per cent of which go to export, we will surely not have the jobs that the Member is so concerned about.

Mr. Broadbent: There is a vigorous defence of Canadian interest. Only a Conservative Minister would say that processing requirements to keep Canadian jobs was discriminatory.

IMPACT ON PROCESSING JOBS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade who did admit that when it comes to Nova Scotia we were losing some 80 million pounds of unprocessed fish last year.

If that is the case, does the Minister agree with his own Member who said that this is costing us 1,000 jobs a year in Nova Scotia? If so, would he admit that the agreement he signed on behalf of the people of Canada, which has resulted in the kind of regulations his colleague has

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referred to and means the loss of processing jobs, means that we are losing at least 1,000 jobs a year in Nova Scotia every year as a result of this incompetence and an equivalent amount in British Columbia? The bottom line is that the Government has given up Canadians' rights on both coasts to process their own fish.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party is a ferocious supporter of the GATT system. Under the GATT system in 1986—

An Hon. Member: Why did you not appeal it?

Mr. Crosbie:—the United States made a complaint that Canadians would not permit salmon and herring to be sold to their processors while the Americans were permitting salmon to be sold to Canadian processors.

As a matter of fact, 15 per cent of the salmon processed in British Columbia is purchased from American fishermen.

An Hon. Member: Fifty per cent.

Mr. Crosbie: Fifteen per cent. The United States Government launched a protest and asked for a GATT panel and that panel ruled against Canada.

Mr. Broadbent: Why did you not appeal it?

Mr. Crosbie: There is no appeal. The Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party is abysmally ignorant in this as in so much else. There is no appeal.

We have replaced the offensive regulations with a new set of regulations requiring salmon and herring to be landed and inspected for management and conservation purposes in British Columbia. The hon. gentleman should be supporting that and helping us to defend those, not with these cheap silly attacks in the House of Commons.

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TRANSPORTATION

RELEASE OF VIA RAIL STUDY

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport, my question is for the Minister of State for Transport.

The VIA Rail business plan which is due this month but is already being implemented, with severance packages being discussed and cancelling of bookings on