

*Adjournment Debate*

to an agreement that will prosecute their fishermen who are fishing in our waters.

The government says it looks all the time for a level playing-field in the fishery. On the same day, I asked the Minister for International Trade about the \$130 million subsidy that was going to help the offshore in the Northern cod. I asked that day that the penalties be the same right across the board for the foreigners in the offshore and the inshore—anyone who is caught in violation within our waters. The \$130 million did not represent level playing-field, as far as I am concerned.

I have been waiting since last June, when I questioned the minister and his officials on two separate occasions, for the guidelines on the \$10 million available for new markets so I could send them to my constituents. I have not seen them.

It is just like a month ago when they introduced a subsidy program that any fisherman in our area would love to have given to them. It means free fish, fish by foreigners to be landed at plants, and these plants to be guaranteed loans by both governments. They then turn around and say: "We are playing on a level playing-field."

What about those who have the most influence, whether it is foreigners with the Minister for International Trade for other reasons, or whether it is the offshore with the Minister of Fisheries? Even on the day that he announced the amendments to the Fisheries Act I do not think that he was saying clearly which way it was going to hit fishermen. Who was going to have to pay more? Was it going to be the companies who can afford to pay for their offshore trawlers who may be in violation or the individuals? Or was it just another way for this minister to say we have to cut back our catching capacity in the inshore. Certainly that is the way it was reviewed by the inshore fishermen in the area that I come from. It was just one more way.

Yet, there are many things on a daily basis that I see this Minister of Fisheries closing his eyes to. He should be looking to see whether or not there are things going on within the fishery, both offshore and inshore, that should be questioned or looked at. This government in particular does not look at what is good for the majority of Canadians. It looks at what is good for the few and to

satisfy on any occasion the big companies in Canada, even the international ones.

I am looking forward to seeing what these particular guidelines are, but I am particularly looking forward to seeing this minister in this new session come up with what I consider a level playing-field. That means, that for once, he has to start looking at the inshore.

I will sum up by saying that it is time that the government and this minister start looking at the millions of Canadians who are so dependent on every day employment and labour in the fisheries in Canada and not just the big companies.

**Mr. Ross Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, as is the procedure in the late show, I will respond to the question that was referred for further debate. That is the question of the silver hake box, which as you know, Mr. Speaker, is really a small mesh gear area where all small mesh gear fishing takes place with the exception of redfish and shrimp. Fishing activities restricted to this area include silver hake, squid, and argentine.

The silver hake box was identified in the 1970s as an area where the use of small mesh gear would have minimal effect on traditional groundfish and pelagic fisheries. This zone lies approximately 100 miles off the coast of Nova Scotia and includes an area stretching from east of Sable Island to the Fundian Channel and from the edge of the Continental Shelf to the 200-mile boundary.

The silver hake has been harvested in 1990 by foreign vessels from the Soviet Union, Cuba, Japan, and Bulgaria.

By-catches of cod, haddock, and pollock are minimal in the silver hake fishery. In 1989, these amounted to 3,300 tonnes of which 2,400 tonnes was pollock. As part of the 1990 bilaterals with Cuba and the Soviet Union, negotiations have been ongoing. To date, several hundred tonnes of by-catch have been landed by U.S.S.R. vessels for Canadian processing.

Canadian fishing activities were approved for 1990. These were confined to inshore operations less than 65 feet. As well, a successful experimental fishery on Emerald Basin using MG vessels less than 65 feet has been completed.

With the exception of the inshore Emerald Basin experimental fishery, all fishing activities are within the small mesh gear zone, commonly referred to as the silver