

Supply

to foreign factory freezer trawlers that are raping the resource. That was his very positive suggestion.

I want to ask a question of the Minister from Atlantic Canada, the Hon. Member for Central Nova, the Member who, when he came here a dozen years ago, had a bit of passion in his blood. I can remember that as a rookie MP, he used to stand up and defend the interests of Atlantic Canada. I want to ask that bloodless Minister opposite to find again his passion and his reason for being here, his commitment to his region, and stand up and say that he will cut those foreign quotas and give the people of Atlantic Canada a chance to restore to themselves the dignity of a pay cheque because they do not want welfare. Does the Minister opposite not realize that?

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, regardless of passion, I never believed that rhetoric was any substitute for reason. In law, they used to say: "If you have the law on your side, you pound the law. If you have the facts on your side, you pound the facts. If you have nothing, you pound the desk". These people opposite are pounding the desk.

Concerning my hon. friend's comments about the fishery, he, in his simplistic passion, as he calls it, would have us believe that we can blithely, by some xenophobic policy, disregard some of the obligations that past Governments, principally his, have arranged with some of our friends, including some of the nations in NAFO that support and strengthen the Canadian fisheries. This is the usual treatment we get from the Opposition, full of passion, full of fire, absolutely devoid of reason.

• (1210)

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister a question with regard to his own Province of Nova Scotia. In his speech he spoke with as much passion as we expected with regard to federal-provincial agreements. He said how valuable those were to the region.

Could he explain how many of the economic and regional development agreements between the federal Government and the provincial Government of his own province, which have been signed and have expired, are to be renewed?

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for that very constructive question. I can tell him, as he probably knows, that approximately half the ERDA

agreements or economic co-operation agreements are still in place between the federal Government and Nova Scotia. Of the half that have recently expired, we are going to be negotiating to see, with respect to the provincial Government's priority, which ones it wants to have renewed or if it wishes to have other priorities or other types of agreements.

Ms. Clancy: Mr. Speaker, with the no less passionate and perhaps slightly cooler methods that abound in Nova Scotia as opposed to those in Newfoundland, I might ask the Hon. Minister a question.

After many, many engagements with Members on this side of the House in committee and in the House, and after having told us that the economy of Atlantic Canada is strong, and after commenting to my honourable friend about the Economic Regional Development Agreements, could he possibly give us some idea of just how much money we can expect in negotiating these ERDAs? How much money will he be going to the provinces with when they make their priority decisions so that they have some idea as to where they stand, or are we yet to get no answer from the Hon. Minister?

Mr. MacKay: I am glad that my colleague opposite recognizes the buoyant economy of Nova Scotia. As the Prime Minister has indicated, 43,000 more people are working in Nova Scotia today than were working in 1984. I can understand her sincere interest in how much money we are going to have to enter into negotiations with the various provinces. As I tried to indicate in committee, this is not a figure that I can give her today; perhaps not for some time.

Ms. Clancy: Why?

Mr. MacKay: For one reason, we have funds that are going to be delivered through the action program, which is a direct delivery from the federal Government. We have other funds that will be allocated to the Economic Development Agreements. I cannot negotiate in public by telling her globally what we are going to do until I speak with the various Premiers and the Ministers.

Mr. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has consistently trotted out \$500 million as being the amount of money which will be spent for development in Atlantic Canada this year. Would he explain to the House what is included in that \$500 million? Second, what is projected for subsequent years, given that the ACOA budget of \$1 billion has been spread out over two extra years and 60 per cent of that