issue the loan anyway because fishermen in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland today by the hundreds have been foreclosed on. They thought they had a guarantee under the Fisheries Improvement Loans Program.

I must admit the banks are not being fair to the Government. They are telling the fishermen that the Government is at fault. The Government is not at fault. The Government had a limit for the banks and the banks should have known that. Yet now we have the ultimate movement by the Government of Canada to do away with the entire loans program for fishermen, but not the loans program for farmers. That will be re-enacted in a few moments in this Chamber.

The fishermen's program is now gone and one wonders why. There is only one conclusion I can come to. Apart from trying to save money, apart from the fact that the Government did not want to extend the guarantee to those poor fishermen who could not meet the demands for payment that they received in letters from big law firms—big law firms—

Mr. Horner: You said that.

Mr. Baker: Yes, I said it and I will say it a hundred times—from big law firms. They sent out these letters to the poor fishermen and told them to pay up in 30 days or they are going to be taken to court and their property seized. Instead of doing something about that under the program, the Government of Canada throws it out the window and says "We are going to cover fishermen under the Small Businesses Loans Act". That is the purpose of this Bill before us today.

The truth of the matter is that fishing enterprises were always considered under the Small Businesses Loans Act. If you are into aquaculture you get loans under that Act. Fishing enterprises were not covered substantially because of the Fisheries Improvement Loans Program which held that better guarantee from the Government of Canada.

There is no need for this Bill at all, but the Government could not just leave it and say it is going to extend, because both the fishermen and farmers loan programs end today. Today! The Government could not say it was only going to extend the Farm Improvement Loans Program. It could not say that because that would be too blatant, too absolutely atrocious for the fishermen of Canada. No, the Government said that with the conclusion of the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act it would officially put them under the Small Businesses Loans Program like any other business in Canada.

• (1650)

Today the fishermen of Canada are wondering why they are being tossed out the window with their loans program. This is only the continuation of long disregard by the Government for the fisheries of Canada. Fishermen of eastern Canada from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland know that foreigners are over-fishing and that nobody will do anything about it. They have seen it for years. They know how bad it is now because no one will touch the French fleet. It is off bounds.

A 64-foot 10-and-one-half-inch Nova Scotian longliner was recently arrested for fishing in an area in which a boat has to be 65 feet in order to fish. It was an inch and a half too short. It was dragged into port in St. John's, Newfoundland, from Nova Scotia. The fisherman was fishing off the Grand Banks next to an American skipper. The fisheries officer said that they could not board the American vessel because the Americans are not members of NAFO. It is a Canadian resource but we do not arrest Americans. The Canadian skipper asked why they were arresting him. The fisheries officer said they were arresting him because he fell under their authority.

While the fellow was being dragged into port in St. John's, Newfoundland, he passed some of the French fleet fishing with no licence. The fisheries officer said that they could not touch them because that area was in dispute. The skipper asked why they were catching him if the area was in dispute. The fisheries officer said it was because he is a Canadian—not American, not French, but Canadian.

That is the attitude which prevails. Fishermen will not take it anymore. Last weekend their capelin quota ended at 15,000 tonnes and the Russian quota started at 17,000 tonnes. There are seven fish plants in Newfoundland today saying that they want to buy capelin because they have markets in Japan and Taiwan. The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans said that it is sorry, but the quota was 15,000 tonnes. The fishermen said, "Yes, but you call it an under-utilized species". The federal Fisheries Department said that that is why it was given it to the Russians.

So the Russians can now start their quota at 17,000 tonnes and fish until December 31. The poor fishermen are sitting back, not allowed to catch capelin although they have licences, because the market quota is gone.

Today the Government of Canada has introduced another Act. The Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster) and the Hon. Member for Humboldt—Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse) will have a few words to say on that farm Bill. We are all anxious to see what is in it. I am sure there must be something bad in it because the Government is introducing it at the last minute. Maybe the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) has more influence in Cabinet than has the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon), although I doubt that.

After 30 years the fishermen lose their guaranteed loans program. After 42 years the farmers will have theirs renewed and we will see in what form in a few moments. The Bill on which we are about to vote is not good for the fishermen of Canada.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

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