

*Supply*

Canada was a pioneer in the phase leading to the signature of this document.

This document requires two steps: a signature and the ratification. Where we are wanting is on the ratification side.

This example of the fisheries is the first tangible, dramatic, social, economic example of unsustainable development. We have reached that point with the fisheries. We are beginning to understand it. We can see the social consequences on the population affected.

Do not forget that 20 or 30 years ago the people living along the coast of Scotland depended on the fishing of herring. Those stocks have disappeared and those communities have suffered considerably. We do not want to see that problem repeated in our communities, in our coastal regions. We should learn from that experience in order to prevent this from happening in Canada.

Unsustainable development is one side of the coin. We have to learn ways therefore, to make this development sustainable for future generations. The problem has been accelerated and compounded by the innovation of the trawler ships fishing the Grand Banks by many nations, including Canada. That has had a large impact on the fish stocks, much larger than anticipated.

Two years ago, Dr. Leslie Harris reported to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on the state of the northern cod stocks.

For instance, the report pointed out that to ensure the survival of the cod stocks, measures needed to be taken and still need to be taken. I quote an observation that Dr. Harris made: "A very determined effort to restrict or eliminate the actual catch of cod by foreign vessels operating under Canadian licence within the 200-mile zone and the determined Government of Canada initiative either to bring the entire Canadian shelf under Canadian management or to reach an effective international agreement that will curb the irresponsible and destructive activities of certain countries fishing the nose and tail of the bank is required."

Among the report's recommendations, Dr. Harris said: "That the Department of Fisheries and Oceans review its management structures and approaches with the end of establishing a more focused and co-ordinated approach." That is an internal, perhaps structural matter.

He went on to say that: "The Government of Canada must be convinced of the imperative necessity of regulating, through agreement or otherwise, foreign fishing pressures upon northern cod".

It was two years ago that Dr. Harris recommended taking specific action.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** I apologize to the hon. member, but I did not receive any indication of whether he is speaking for a maximum of 20 minutes or whether he is splitting his time with other members. I would appreciate if he would give some indication to the Chair.

**Mr. Caccia:** I am splitting my time and I will be glad to yield to my colleague from Bonavista—Trinity—Conception.

**Mr. Mifflin:** I was going to ask a question of the hon. member.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** A five-minute question or comments period. I ask your collaboration, the hon. member for Davenport has two minutes left.

**Mr. Caccia:** Mr. Speaker, I will stay within the limit you have indicated and I appreciate your kindness.

To compress it and to conclude and also to go back to the statement made earlier by the minister, it seems to me that at this stage in developing a strategy for Canada the government, when planning our position for UNCED at the conference in Rio next June, instead of promising to raise the issue and moving along with a certain resolution, should instead use that forum to defend the unilateral extension of Canada's fisheries jurisdiction. It should defend it as a practical and indispensable step to ensure the sustainability of that resource.

I am quite sure we would have the weight of the majority of world opinion on our side. We would send a signal to the world community that conservation of global resources is a priority for Canada, that we recognize the global significance of this resource, as my colleague from LaSalle—Émard stressed at the conclusion of his remarks.

In other words, we have to take an initiative that will move and shake up the world community in the wake of the recognition that we can no longer effectively manage a biological resource according to artificial political