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that he discussed this question with Sir Geoffrey Howe, that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) discussed it with the British Prime Minister, and that the officials discussed with the officials.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs said absolutely nothing regarding retaliation by this Government if the Cabinet of Britain goes ahead with this resolution. He should have said that they would tell the British to forget their submarine contracts if they go ahead with this resolution before the British House.

However, he did not say that. The Government is going to lay back again and, this time, allow the British Parliament to run all over it like the Government of France has run all over it. I suppose one could say—

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa—Carleton):** This is a non-partisan issue.

**Mr. Baker:** The Hon. Member says that it is non-partisan. There is nothing non-partisan about this issue whatsoever. I am going to be extremely partisan. The NDP may not like what I am about to say, either.

At least the Government of Canada can announce, at this very moment, what it intends to do in retaliation if the British Cabinet goes ahead with the resolution it has under consideration. They did it to us with the seals and they are going to do it to us again with our trappers.

There are 105,000 people employed in this country, directly or indirectly, partially or full time, in the fur business. We had \$600 million of trade with Great Britain in 1985, plus \$200 million in transportation costs with Great Britain. The Government will do nothing. It will let things slide as it always has.

It was this Government which turned around only a few months ago and announced that it was official, that no more would white seals be killed in Canada, that it was illegal to kill the whitecoats. The Government announced that without saying why it had taken that move.

• (2130)

They should be ashamed of themselves, especially Members from Atlantic Canada—

**Mr. Forrestall:** Tell me about Roméo Leblanc? Where is he from? Where was he when all this started?

**Mr. Baker:** Let me get down to a few facts.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Tell us about Roméo.

**Mr. Baker:** The Hon. Member will have a chance to speak in a few moments. I hope he does so, but I am sure he will not. He does not want to stand in the House for 10 or 15 minutes and put his thoughts to paper because he does not have any.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Where was Rompkey when this problem started? Where was Leblanc?

**Mr. Baker:** Let us deal with the question before the House. The seal hunt in Newfoundland was—

**Mr. Forrestall:** Where was Don Jamieson when these problems started?

**Mr. Baker:** The seal hunt still continues in several areas of Newfoundland today.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Where was Rompkey?

**Mr. Baker:** Mr. Speaker, there is a Member talking across the way. Could you bring him to order? He is getting on my nerves.

**Mr. Forrestall:** You do not like the truth, eh?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker) has the floor.

**Mr. Baker:** At the beginning of the seal hunt issue there were several groups that supported the organizations that were opposed to the seal hunt. There were several Members of Parliament who stood in their place in the House and demanded an end to the seal hunt back in the early 1970s.

A lot of money was collected in Canada itself for organizations like Greenpeace and the International Fund for Animal Welfare Incorporated which was situated in St. Laurent, Quebec, at 1505 Lapine Street, to be exact. It is a matter of public record that some Members in the House at that time supported what the opponents of the seal hunt were doing. It is a matter of public record that they included Conservatives and New Democrats.

However, I do not believe that any of the political Parties agree with banning the seal hunt today. Each Party has passed a resolution in support of the sealers of Newfoundland and Labrador.

There are approximately 3,000 sealers in my riding, which stretches along the northeast coast of Newfoundland. There is the outrageous situation today in which thousands of these men go out and still get their seals but can only sell the meat. There has always been a seal meat cannery in my riding that employed some 100 people during that time of the winter. Of course, some of the seals are still killed today but only for the meat because the pelt is no longer in demand.

The Government still has not answered as to why there was initiative to do exactly the same thing with the seal pelts when similar action was being taken as they were being shipped overseas? Perhaps that is the biggest fault of Governments that had to deal with the problem in those days.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Where was the Liberal Government in the 1970s? What were you doing? Tell us about that.