

Government Orders

I cannot believe that he could not have at least have presented the proposals in the bill to the fishing industry.

Another aspect about this bill is that it is bad. It is not going to help us with the Americans. Last week, we heard the Minister for International Trade say the government had reached a comprehensive enforcement agreement with the U.S. government in order to penalize the American fisherman who comes over into the Canadian side of the Georges Bank area. Their penalties will have increased.

None of us who have seen the fishery and had dealings with the United States know that there is a fair game in place. The President may say that he will attempt to have this passed by Congress, but there are the eastern seaboard states to consider. Those states have to give up their right to have jurisdiction over enforcement of the fishery. They have to delegate it to their federal government. At no time in the past, whether it was lobster when the Prime Minister said he would talk to President Bush, whether it was on the line of the Georges Bank dispute, or at any other time in the history with which I have been involved, have I seen the Americans give in to Canada when it related to the fishery.

I read in a newspaper that a federal Department of Fisheries spokesman said last Saturday that the tonnage that they catch is hard to estimate but cannot even come up to prosecuting the amount of fish that goes across that imaginary border, or that line that looks like a line but the Americans seem to be able to violate it at will. They just take millions of dollars without Canada being able to enforce our rules against the U.S.

Last week the Minister for International Trade said that they were hoping to see the fine go up on the U.S. side from \$10,000 to \$100,000, which almost matches what we have here before us in this bill.

I know I do not have a lot of time to speak on this, but I want to say that we have not got a good record in prosecuting the Americans. We have not got a good record in halting foreign overfishing in our waters. Personally, I do not think that we have had a very good record in going after the offshore for some of the overfishing that they have done. However, I do feel that this bill is not going to help to go after those sectors that I feel are offending our fishing rights within our 200-mile limit. I say that because I know that the government has

slanted its policy toward what is big and not the benefit of what is small.

Another area in this bill that is just ridiculous is section 61 regarding information returned. This bill will impose red tape on the small inshore fishermen in Quebec, New Brunswick, P.E.I., Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and on the west coast. Just listen to this, Mr. Speaker. A person referred to in section 61(1), that is an ordinary little fishermen in a 45-foot boat going out to fish, may be required to provide information or to keep records or other documents relating to any of the following matters: the number of fish, the sex of the fish, the size of the fish, the weight of the fish, the species, the product form, value or other particulars of any fish caught, cultured, processed, transported, sold, or purchased.

Now, you tell me, Mr. Speaker, how the ordinary fisherman is supposed to take the fish out of the water, weigh it, look at the sex, look at the size, see what the species is, as the lines are going and other fish are coming out of the water. I do not know what the government thinks or what the burden is that they want to put on the fishermen, but the red tape that this particular section puts on the inshore fishery with is so ridiculous it does not bear talking about, but it is in the bill.

• (1610)

I cannot believe that this minister thinks that this will provide for the conservation and restoration of the stocks. This minister would be much better advised by his officials if he went dealt with the efficiency of the inshore and said: "Can we not get rid of the foreigners in our waters and fish under-utilized?" But, no, today the headlines of *The Province*, the C section of *The Chronicle-Herald* states: "Valcourt Sticks by Canso Deal". Mr. Valcourt said: "Silver hake and capelin have not been caught successfully to any extent by Canadian vessels."

Give us a deal. Give us a deal like the Minister of Fisheries gave out a month ago and I will retire from politics and trade the under-utilized species. I can certainly see trading under-utilized species or bartering. Give me an under-utilized species quota like you gave that company, and give every Canadian that.

But the government has never offered that to Canadian fishermen. In fact, it has not even listened to Canadian fishermen or the processors who on this appear to be together. The Fisheries Council of Canada and others are all saying that what the minister did with this deal is changed the playing-field. He changed it altogether. He said that nobody is against Canso and