

*Supply—Fisheries and Forestry*

communities of Newfoundland, where he would see the human problems. Yes, Mr. Speaker, human—a word which he uses so often in his speeches across the country. Let him take a good look at humanity in Newfoundland. We cannot fly him there by a special plane. There are no shopping centres and there will not be any crowds of mini-skirted teenagers. There will be no flowers, no hippies and no poles to swing on. Neither will he be able to book any hotel suites, as at Claridges in London, nor a suite that the queen mother of Jordan uses. But he will see a part of Canada, and a people who have for far, far too long been taken for granted, and for far, far too long have been neglected. He will see a fishing industry that has been allowed gradually to disintegrate to the present emergency proportion.

On November 22 in this house I pointed out very clearly, in a question which appears in *Hansard*, the impending shutdown of a fishing plant on the northwest coast of Newfoundland. No one took even a blind bit of notice. Today we are threatened with the collapse of the complete fishing industry of the Atlantic region. Now is the time for our task force, but let us make it an emergency task force and not a long term one.

The Newfoundland members have been crying “wolf” ever since we came here to Ottawa concerning the problems of the fishing industry. The wolf is at the door. Will the government believe us and find a solution to this emergency by reinstating the deficiency payments or offer assistance and thereby assure the industry and its people that there is some ray of hope for their future livelihood?

**Mr. Lundrigan:** First of all, Mr. Chairman, I should like to congratulate a great friend of ours from Surrey, who certainly came to our assistance very ably today. I should like also to point out to the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, a very distinguished west coast area, that we sympathize if he has any problems, but we would like more understanding on his part as well.

I am greatly encouraged by the sincerity of the new Minister of Fisheries, who I am sure is sincerely aware of the problems in Canada. I am sure also that, in the long run, obviously he will make a genuine attempt to do something about this. I am not equally impressed by the attitude of the Prime Minister of Canada. In the few minutes I have, if I were to speak to this one point I would be certain to point out to the Canadian people that this

[Mr. Marshall.]

lack of sincerity will show through to the Canadian people, and that this Prime Minister, who treats the House of Commons as a circus, will not continue to get away with this kind of clowning. The Prime Minister might kiss his way across Canada during an election, but let him not think that he will have the same kind of success in trying to kiss away the problems of the Canadian people as they relate to the economy of the Canadian Atlantic fishermen.

• (5:40 p.m.)

I should like to have seen the Prime Minister here today, because then I could be a little more aggressive; but as he is not here I will be polite now and refrain from doing so. I will take the opportunity when he is here to tell him exactly what I think of him, which perhaps might or might not shock my colleagues.

**An hon. Member:** He will be here for 20 years.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** He will not be here next year, if he continues in his present attitude. I say that in reply to the colourful remarks of the hon. member who just spoke.

I was a little disappointed about the statement today of the Minister of Fisheries. I cannot blame him for this kind of statement, because he is a new minister. All he actually did was an excellent job of identifying the problems, but we have had people identifying problems ever since I was very young. Many people have identified the problems facing the fishing industry.

On September 20 I asked the Minister of Fisheries if and when a long term plan would be announced to the house and the Canadian people. On a number of other occasions my colleagues have asked a similar question. This request has been made almost every day. We have wanted the Minister of Fisheries to make a statement in respect of a short term plan to keep this industry alive during the interim between now and the date when a long term plan is announced. Day after day we have received the same answer, that the “plan will be announced shortly”. In the meantime, as I and my colleagues have said, the salt rebate has gone, indemnity relating to insurance has gone, the community stage program has gone, the plans for fishing facility expansion, which is under another department, have been curtailed, deficiency payments have disappeared and livelihoods are going. This is the situation we are finding ourselves in: The industry is bleeding