

**Mr. McGrath:** They don't know what you are talking about.

**An hon. Member:** That is before Stanley Knowles.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** I am getting a charge out of watching the Minister of National Health and Welfare who until recently was one of the super group.

**Mr. Hees:** "Was" is the operative word.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** He was better off in the Prime Minister's office where he had the protection and security of being behind the scenes.

**Mr. Hees:** We need you back there, Marc.

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** Order, please. I have only recently assumed the chair and I must ask the hon. member whether we are now on the subject of the environment or on National Health and Welfare.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** I am talking about fishing, Mr. Chairman, but I should be talking about pollution, I recognize that. However, I will get to the point. We have a problem, and I should like hon. members in their daily deliberations to give this problem serious consideration. The fact that our country has developed economically is due mainly to our fishing resources. I remember hearing my colleague, the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo, the eloquent Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, say, one day when we were asking for subsidies, that if we were here when John Cabot came across we would be looking for subsidies for fishing baskets which were used to sink into the water to catch the fish which were there in great abundance. Unwittingly he reminded us that the resource was rolling up on the beaches of North America. It was the same as gold except that the shape and weight were different; it attracted people the same way that gold attracted people to Alaska. It was another major form of wealth. We had millions and millions of dollars worth of fish.

The ancestors of many members of the House today constructed boats and developed the technology to harvest that resource. They fought the elements, they scratched and dug into an environment which was completely foreign to many who came from Europe, especially those who came from southern European countries, and thus they eked out a living. Some of them survived, some did not. They distinguished themselves as aggressive, competent people. About 20 years ago—and this is not due to this government—we became part of Canada. Since that time, the fishing industry in Atlantic Canada is something that people blush about when they talk about it.

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The Soviet Union discovered there were resources out there. Mr. Chairman, we discovered that 500 years ago. But the Soviet Union discovered them ten years ago and put millions of dollars into a great naval fleet, not to declare war on Canada militarily but to declare war on our fishing resources. That is what the Soviet Union and other nations have done off our coasts. Hon. members get all excited when we send troops to Viet Nam. But, Mr.

### Supply

Chairman, we have been at war for years. The Russians have been sending naval fleets to attack our resources.

The Russians destroyed the whole resources of the Hamilton Inlet banks, which was the spawning ground for the traditional Labrador fishery. In one year the Soviet Union and other nations took enough fish off that bank, and other banks, to keep the largest fish plant in my riding going for 100 years, employing 300 people. They took away one billion pounds of fish. So that hon. members can understand the magnitude of this, I repeat that that amount of fish could have kept the largest fish plant in my riding going for 100 years, employing 300 people working eight or ten hours a day. The end result was that that fishery was completely destroyed.

Is it any wonder that in the last three years members from my province have been standing up in this House asking for special assistance for our fishermen on the Labrador coast? Our fishermen traditionally used to go up the Labrador coast and harvest these resources in small boats. I have heard stories in which my ancestors described the quality and quantity of those resources. Today there is nothing left. Today, as we say, we cannot get a fish for the pot on the Labrador coast. The whole fishery is destroyed. Foreign nations moved in 250 miles off our shores and destroyed the spawning grounds.

The government has imposed some limitation on this, and I agree with that action, but overfishing continues to take place on all our banks and spawning grounds. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has not the gumption to stand up and tell us what propositions Canada will be presenting to the next International Law of the Sea Conference. The reason is that the government has no proposition to present. It is ashamed of the fishing industry. This is true; this is a fact.

Ministers don't talk about this in cabinet. They are not going to present any case at the next Law of the Sea Conference because the fishery does not fit into their major strategy for the Canadian nation. Iceland had no alternative but to take action. Icelanders depend on fishing for their livelihood. A year ago they established a 50-mile limit. They said to the British and Germans, "You send your bloody ships in here and we will sink them." And, Mr. Chairman, Iceland does not have a large enough navy to occupy the Rideau canal!

**Mr. Drury:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I hesitate to interrupt the hon. gentleman, particularly as we have agreed to allow him to continue, but I would point out that we are under some time pressure on this particular question. If we do not succeed in completing our consideration of supply before we get into the budget debate, all these programs we are considering will not be able to start until after the budget debate. I would hope the hon. gentleman would be able to conclude now because I do not think he was making a leader's speech.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** I will respect that opinion, Mr. Chairman. We have been under a time pressure for about 500 years, but I am going to respect the minister's opinion. I think that I have gone beyond the normal privilege that one should take when one has been given extended time.

I just hope that one of these days we will get a Canadian government and a Canadian minister, and Canadian