

Supply

This is a Liberal motion which I applaud. I like the language though it is a little weak. Mismanagement, incompetence and negligence are not quite strong enough words for me. I think some of the language I would use may be non-parliamentary. I applaud this motion and am sure there are many questions for me.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, just before I pose a question, I have a few observations with regard to the remarks made by my colleague from New Westminster—Burnaby. She indicated at the outset that in western Canada she is finding a great deal of concern being expressed by individuals in the fisheries with regard to some of the management policies of the Government of Canada. I want to tell the hon. member concerns.

In fact, I was somewhat dismayed when I heard on the floor of the House of Commons my colleague from Central Nova extolling the virtues of the present minister of fisheries only to be outdone by my colleague from St. John's East. It seems that at every opportunity, he wishes to support not only the policies of the Government of Canada but indeed, to support *carte blanche* the activities of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

We in Atlantic Canada, and I guess it is probably *apropos* to western Canada, have been suffering at the hands of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who refuses on all occasions to accept the advice, suggestions, the calls and the pleas of fishermen and individuals within the industry. I am appalled to hear that his cabinet colleague would say today on the floor of the House of Commons that it is a tough job being the minister of fisheries. We have a serious problem within the fishery, only to find that the minister of fisheries said in the House several days ago that everything is wonderful, everything is healthy, there are no difficulties within the fishing industry.

I want to address this particular concern to the hon. member who has just spoken. Would she not agree, in her spirit of objectivity, in her non-partisan manner as exhibited in the last number of minutes of her speech, that notwithstanding the fault with the regulations, the management policies that have been put in place by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, there is an added problem, a serious problem which affects west coast fishermen and those in the Atlantic.

• (1740)

That has to do with the arrogance, the unbelievable arrogance of the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Would the hon. member not agree that if this particular minister would only accept the reality that there is a crisis within the fisheries and provide a coherent plan, we would then find solutions to what has become a disastrous economic situation for the west coast as well as the Atlantic coast?

While the hon. member is on her feet, would she not want to take the opportunity to share with members of the House of Commons who have listened attentively to her remarks and the remarks of all of our colleagues as to what sort of adjectives the hon. member say that the motion that this House condemn the government's mismanagement, lack of leadership, incompetence and negligence that has placed Canada's fishing communities and workers in unparalleled jeopardy is weak. I want to ask if the hon. member would rise in her place and join with us in this party by adding adjectives to the situation which the minister has caused for fishermen on both the west and east coasts.

While I am on my feet, I thought I would take one more moment—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I think that the hon. member will agree that the floor should be given to the Hon. Member for Saaninch—Gulf Islands.

Ms. Hunter: Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. It is such a concise question. I just want to assure the hon. member that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, from my perspective in British Columbia, has certainly alienated every aspect of the fishing community, the recreational fishery, the troll fleet, the gill-netters, you name it, they are mad at him because of this mismanagement.

In order to allow other people to ask questions—because I know there are a number of other people who want to ask questions, I can just see them bouncing over there wanting to ask me questions—I think that I will leave the adjectives because they would not be parliamentary. I know that a lot of journalists, in particular, find that some of us women in the House are a little too partisan, and I would not want to dissuade them from that belief.