

*Private Members' Business*

improved technology because the government has been doing that steadily. It is a most modern industry compared to any other country that does this kind of work. The industry has already tried that.

There was a strike last year, a work stoppage, or whatever, a management-worker dispute on the issue. Industry was trying to cut costs by tearing it off the hides of the workers, trying to get the workers to agree to lower standards and to poorer conditions in order to get an agreement that would make them better able to compete so that they would not lose the processing industry to the United States. We lost that.

There is no question that direct exports of unprocessed fish leads to job losses. The current Minister for International Trade has admitted that. Although he will not apply it to the west coast, he certainly has admitted it with respect to the east coast. A quotation from the Minister for International Trade is as follows: "I believe the amount last year was some 80 million pounds". He is talking about exports to the United States from the east coast of unprocessed fish. He went on to say: "If sold in Nova Scotia it would be a considerable help to fish plant workers in Nova Scotia".

According to the government member for South Shore, the province of Nova Scotia loses 1,000 jobs annually as a result of the province having regulations permitting the export of unprocessed fish. Of course, that is what the west coast fishery has been trying to get into as well.

When supply is threatened, jobs are threatened. I made that point and the fisheries council made it. The Pacific Advisory Group in the *Vision 2000* document stated: "The impact of the removal of export restrictions on salmon and herring is as yet uncertain. It could result in a significant increase in the export of unprocessed fish to the U.S. with loss of jobs in the Canadian processing sector".

As important as the loss of jobs is, my greater concern is for the loss of our ability to manage the resource, to husband this resource. Canadians have paid the price to protect this resource, manage and conserve it. We have paid for it ever since we have been in the business. For

100 years we have been paying the costs of managing this resource.

Giving the Americans direct resort to this resource is certainly a direct benefit to the U.S. processing industry. We paid for it. We have husbanded it. We have done without on occasion. We have hired people to work in the industry. We have hired people to police it. We have done all these things at great cost to Canadians and now what we are doing, as a result of this government's inaction when GATT threatened us, and its actions under the free trade deal, is say to the Americans that we have looked after it all these decades, now they can have it, that we are ready to abandon the field because we want to be nice neighbours. When do we quit giving in to the Americans? When do we quit giving to them? When do we start demanding some access to our own fish?

**Mr. Milliken:** When we get a new Liberal government.

**Mr. Stupich:** When we get a new government. Yes, I agree with the speaker. If the New Democrats form the next government, certainly it will start to look after Canadian interests and live up to GATT.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

• (1710)

It is important to protect this resource. It is not something we have created. It is something we have tried to maintain. It is very important to B.C.; it is very important to Canada. As I said, it is a billion-dollar industry. We cannot abandon the right, the opportunity, and the responsibility to husband this resource. Turning it over to the Americans and letting them handle it, harvest it without doing any management, without looking after it, without husbanning the resource, is abandoning that industry, abandoning that resource.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard plenty in this House about what has happened to the east coast fish stocks. I am talking now about the northern cod. That is a disaster created by humans through neglect, not through anything deliberate, through neglect.

We could be going down that same road on the Pacific coast if we allow the Americans to simply exploit the resource without accepting any responsibility for husbanning it, for managing it.