

Our fishing industry is in dire straits. The maritime provinces and the west coast depend on a successful and productive fishing industry. We need leadership on this issue. We have a lot of work to do.

As a member from southwestern Ontario, my riding knows the importance of the fishing industry. Fishermen are the "farmers of the sea", who have to deal with not only mother nature, but varying prices and depleted stocks.

Let us support our fishermen.

Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls): Madam Speaker, this bill before the House of Commons does a lot of things that have not been mentioned in the House. One of the things is that in clause 3 of the bill, it removes sections 10 and 11 of the Fisheries Act. It throws that out. It removes it. It takes it out of the law of Canada.

For the record, Madam Speaker, I would like to tell you what these two sections are. The first section reads: "No one shall, with boat or vessel or in any other way during the time of hunting for seals, knowingly or wilfully disturb, obstruct or interfere with any seal hunting area or prevent or impede the shoals of seals from coming into that area or knowingly or wilfully frighten those shoals."

That is section 10. That has been taken out. Section 11 in the act—it is the law of Canada—is now being removed by this bill before the House. The first section reads:

Clause 3: The heading preceding section 10 and sections 10 to 16 of the said Act are repealed.

There is no reference to what is in those sections. The House has heard about the first section that is being removed. The second section reads:

Clause 3: The heading preceding section 10 and sections 10 to 16 read as follows:

11.(1) Disputes between occupiers of seal hunting areas concerning limits and the method of hunting or setting nets shall be decided summarily by an fishery officer or justice of the peace.

(2) A fishery officer or justice of the peace may appoint arbitrators to assess damages in respect of a dispute—

Then it goes on and on. The NDP should be very happy that this is being removed from the bill, because it was the NDP that objected in 1977 when it was included in the bill. It was its critic, Mr. Stuart Leggatt from New Westminster whom we all remember—

Government Orders

Mr. Reid: Justice Leggatt. He was appointed to the bench.

Mr. Baker: The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans tells me that he has been appointed to the bench in British Columbia. He spoke on behalf of the NDP at that time. He said, as reported at page 7157 of *Hansard* for June 28, 1977:

I am opposed to the amendment, not because I am opposed to the seal hunt but because we have nothing to hide and it seems to me the amendment is designed to prevent complete media coverage of the hunt.

That is the first point that should be made about this legislation. I do not now how to describe my dismay in reading this bill before the House.

The gentleman who was pushed for and tried to help the poor people all along the east coast of Canada is the member for Labrador. He is in the House today. He was the one, over all those years, who would stand and move amendments to legislation. Although the government of which he was a part had a bill before the House, he would stand to protect those people who needed income from the seal hunt. It was gratifying to see. He had his motions seconded by an hon. member from the west coast, Senator Marshall, a Tory. They joined forces.

• (1720)

The only objectors were of course members of the NDP. The only people who would not support the motions were members of the NDP. That is why they can stand in this Chamber without mentioning how delighted they are whenever a change is made that will sweep the seal hunters out into the cold, all those people in northern areas of Canada.

I do not know how the government can increase fines for Canadian fishermen when it has given in five different ways this year licences to foreign nations to fish our fish stocks within the 200-mile zone. I have here the foreign allocation summary of Canadian managed stocks, published this month by the department of fisheries: cod, 2G and 2H, Labrador, Faro Island, 2,000 tonnes; France, 4,500 tonnes; German Democratic Republic, 450 tonnes; Norway, 1,820 tonnes; Poland, 725 tonnes; U.S.S.R., 1,635 tonnes.

It goes right down the coast, and then we can go to 4Vn. That is an interesting area. That is Cape Breton Island. We see allocations for redfish and for cod, because of the special agreement with France. We have