kind of situation. The Government must act and deal with these problems. And why couldn't the Government and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans include in the Throne Speech some measures or proposals for examining these serious problems and finding a solution?

I refuse to believe that the Hon. Member who represents a riding where the fisheries industry plays an essential role is satisfied with the scanty mention of fisheries in the Throne Speech. I am sure he would have wanted to see more than that.

● (1720)

[*English*]

Mr. McCreath: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the Hon. Member for giving me an opportunity to speak further on the subject of fisheries.

First of all, I think that what was set before us in the Throne Speech was a concept of Canada and a set of goals and objectives. It was done in a very comprehensive way, and I think it was an extremely well written document.

With respect to the issues raised in the fishery, I am sure the Hon. Member is fully aware of the diligent work that has been undertaken over the course of the last year. If he is not, I would be more than delighted to provide him with a copy of the report of the Scotia Fundy Ground Fish Industry Capacity Advisory Committee.

It is a committee, Madam Speaker, that has in its membership representatives of all the major organizations involved in fishing in Atlantic Canada; the Eastern Fisherman's Federation, the Eastern Shore Fishermen's Protective Association, the Grand Manan Fishermen's Association, the Maritime Fishermen's Union, the Nova Scotia Draggermen's Association, the South West Fixed Gear Operators and representatives from the province as well.

The study is under way. The capacity committee has provided and filed its first phase report. It is my understanding that the Minister has now requested a detailed process for implementing the very sound recommendations that are here. We do not need a further study. The work has been done in the first phase, is now being done in the second phase, and I think the important thing is that as these industry representatives have become involved in this process Members opposite will take an active interest in the excellent work that is being done. But we have to face one fundamental reality. The Government of Canada, indeed Hon. Members opposite, cannot create fish. We have to face the fact that we have a serious problem because we in the Scotia–Fundy region we have overharvested the fish that are there.

It would be very easy for me as a Member from this side to go on criticizing the previous Government for what they did or did not do in the past. Who knows? Had any group been in power, perhaps they would have done the same thing.

It is partly the result of the extension of the 200–mile offshore zone, partly the change in technology from wooden boats to fibreglass boats, the fact that when you replace the one with the other, you can very easily get what we call jumbo boats that create a greater capacity to harvest more fish, but the bottom line is that there are not enough fish in the ocean.

The responsibility of the Minister of Fisheries is to safeguard that resource. It is interesting to see that if you go down the government benches, he is the only Minister who under legislation has a responsibility for managing a resource—

The Acting Speaker (Madam Champagne): The Hon. Member from Etobicoke—Lakeshore (Mr. Boyer) on a point of order.

Mr. McCreath: I am perhaps getting carried away. I will stop and allow the Hon. Member to ask his question.

Mr. James: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Member for South Shore (Mr. McCreath) on an excellent speech. I know the people of his constituency are going to be very well represented.

I was also pleased to hear that we have elected someone who has somewhat of a rural constituency—150 miles long. It must have some rural component to it. It seemed to me the Member from The Battlefords—Meadow Lake (Mr. Taylor) seemed to be indicating that the NDP, his Party, had a corner on the rural constituencies, and that is certainly not the case.