

the excellent work that has been done by co-operatives across this country.

It is a pleasure to stand up and be supportive of what this motion intends. I hope the government will heed the direction this motion is suggesting and provide the support to co-operatives so they can do the job for the little guy and take care of the little fellow.

• (1740)

Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls): Mr. Speaker, about three weeks ago, I was invited to be the guest speaker at an annual meeting of a co-operative. I was reminded of that when the hon. member who introduced the motion and the hon. member for Moncton mentioned that they were resource-based industries as they relate to co-operatives.

I was sitting in that meeting of the co-operative called the Fogo Island Co-operative. There were hundreds of people in the room to listen to the annual financial statement.

By the way, there are four or five major fish plants operated by this co-operative and two or three, depending on what kind of a year it is, smaller fish plants. In other words, we are talking about 1,000 regular workers, and another 1,000 people who catch fish to bring into this co-operative.

Everybody was waiting in this room for the financial statement. All we have heard in eastern Canada about the fishing industry is disaster after disaster after disaster. We have had governments, present and past, which have had to pour hundreds of millions of dollars into large private companies in Canada like Fisheries Products International and others.

National Sea Products Limited sometimes forgets that the federal government is about a 20 per cent shareholder in that fish business because of its financial involvement. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been placed in these very large privately owned companies on the stock market to revive them and to keep them alive so that people can continue to have their jobs.

There I was, three weeks ago, sitting down in a hall on an island in the Atlantic Ocean off the east coast of Canada listening to the financial statement of a co-operative. I learned from that financial statement that it did not lose any money. None. It made \$1.5 million this past year while other companies are floundering, while

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the federal government is investing hundreds of millions of dollars in our large multinationals.

This co-operative made \$1.5 million last year without financial assistance this year, last year, the year before or the year before that when all of the other companies—not all of them—all the big companies and all of the multinationals were being bailed out by the taxpayers of Canada to the tune of hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars.

Here is a co-operative that was competing against them. Not only did it compete, but it made money. It made a profit. I am in complete agreement with the words of the hon. member for Moncton in whose riding, as he pointed out, is the headquarters for Co-op Atlantic, a great organization which deals throughout the four Atlantic provinces, employs hundreds and hundreds of people and gives excellent produce in every single one of its stores in Newfoundland and throughout the maritimes.

I would promote it any day of the week because my mother belongs to that co-operative. I know about the excellent service that it provides.

The resource based industries deserve the presence of co-operatives and the encouragement of co-operatives as the hon. gentleman has put in this motion before the House today. If only the federal government would listen to his good advice.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): There being no further members rising for debate the time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1) the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, on May 28 I put a question to the Associate Minister of National Defence regarding the defence cuts