

outside the 200-mile zone off Canada's East Coast. I do not want to talk about what is happening outside the 200-mile zone. This morning I want to talk about what is happening inside the 200-mile zone with licences issued by the Government.

Today, at this very moment, due east of the City of Halifax there are no fewer than 35 Soviet factory freezer trawlers, floating fish plants, not 200 miles out into the ocean, not out past the 200-mile zone, but licensed to fish to within 12 miles of Halifax Harbour. They are licensed to fish within 12 miles of the Nova Scotia coast.

If that were not bad enough, off that same Halifax Harbour there are nine factory freezer trawlers from Cuba, licensed by the Government in the past six weeks, with more to come.

They go into the Port of Halifax in a tugboat, walk into the fisheries office, and get their licences signed by the Department of External Affairs. There are floating fish plants right off Halifax Harbour today. Each one of those boats is equal to a fish plant on shore. There are 35 Soviet floating fish plants, and 9 Cuban floating fish plants due east of Halifax.

At this very moment, today, there are seven Russian factory freezer trawlers due east of St. John's, Newfoundland. They are not out past the 200-mile limit, but they are inside the 200-mile limit, 30 and 40 miles offshore. There are seven of them.

What are those gigantic floating fish plants doing? They are licensed by the Government of Canada, the very Government that states that our fishery is in a crisis, the very Government that is reducing our quotas and closing our fish plants, the very Government that has appointed a cabinet committee to work out the money to be paid to people who will be on welfare. That committee is headed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark). You remember him, Mr. Speaker; he is the fellow who wrote to France and said: "We will never forsake the people of St. Malo. Never, *jamais*." He is the guy who promised to give France all the Canadian fish it wanted. That same person is heading a cabinet committee to see what can be done for the devastation now of the reduced quotas all around the East Coast of Canada.

Supply

That Minister and that Government have issued those licences to Russian boats to fish right now off the coast of Nova Scotia and off the coast of Newfoundland.

What are they fishing for? Well, I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, what they are fishing for. The Government of Canada states that they are fishing for underutilized species. There are no underutilized species off the East Coast of Canada today. The only underutilized species off the East Coast of Canada are fishermen and fish plant workers. Under this Government they are not only an underutilized species, but they are fast becoming an endangered species.

Those 35 factory freezer trawlers off Halifax have an allocation of 58,000 tonnes of what is called silver hake. They also carry with it what is called a by-catch of 3,000 tonnes of cod fish, 3,000 tonnes of pollack, and 1,000 tonnes of haddock. If one adds up 3,000 tonnes of cod fish, 3,000 tonnes of pollack, and 1,000 tonnes of haddock, that would keep any large fish plant going in Atlantic Canada for an entire year.

• (1120)

Mr. Reid: Oh, come on. A pretty small fish plant.

Mr. Baker: The hon. gentleman says "a pretty small fish plant." The average fish plant takes 10 million pounds of fish a year and employs 450 people, and a cabinet Minister says: "Oh, pretty small stuff". Maybe he is from central Canada—

Mr. Reid: Hold it.

Mr. Baker: —but he sure isn't from Atlantic Canada.

Mr. Tobin: It was the Member for St. John's East.

Mr. Baker: The average fish plant in Atlantic Canada takes in 10 million pounds of fish.

That is what is licensed to the Russians who are fishing in what we call the silver hake box east of Halifax harbour, together with the Cubans.

What are the Russians doing with these factory freezer trawlers just east of the City of St. John's? They are catching fish called capelin. Capelin is the main food of the cod fish. Capelin are the fish for which over 400 Newfoundlanders were refused licences to fish this year. Yet there are seven Soviet factory freezer trawlers within Canada's 200 mile zone, just east of the City of St. John's, today, fishing the very resource that Newfound-