

*The Address—Mr. Carter*

acted upon public sentiment which the minister knew was based on misinformation. The irony of the situation is that in the past three or four years a dozen or so veterinary specialists and representatives of animal welfare organizations from Europe and North America inspected the whitecoat hunt at close range and found it generally to be an acceptably humane and legitimate animal-harvesting operation. The government, at the expense of people who augment their incomes by this industry, is content to listen to the whims of the ladies of the SPCA and others and have taken action that will have an adverse effect on the sealing industry of eastern Canada.

I suggest that with the new regulation which requires sealers to shoot rather than club seals, it is quite possible there will be more dead human bodies on the ice than those of seals. It is not a matter of saving the seals, sir. With regard to the new regulation, I suggest a movement should be started to save the sealers.

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

**Mr. Carter:** The Minister of Fisheries, who has not one iota of knowledge about the sealing industry, should have spoken to people who have had occasion to spend 8, 10 and 12 hours on the ice. He would then know that to give sealers shotguns and rifles with which to shoot seals is tantamount to telling them to go out and shoot their fellow sealers. I hope the minister takes heed of what I am saying. I contend that if this regulation is imposed on the sealing industry there will be very serious accidents on the ice floes next season. This is a stupid, crazy and nonsensical regulation. I am sure most of us can get very emotional when we think of a big, burly six-foot sealer with a club killing whitecoats, but I prefer to see whitecoats killed than Newfoundland and east coast sealers.

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

**Mr. Carter:** The Minister of Fisheries has now become the darling of the international press; therefore, I ask him to reverse his stand on behalf of the baby whitecoats. We all love them. I ask the minister to give serious thought to the inhumane way in which scallops, clams, mussels, and other shellfish are scraped, gouged and torn from the bottom of the sea while they are still alive. I ask him to give serious thought to lobsters being plucked away from their nests and their loved ones at the bottom of the sea and being thrown alive into boiling water. I ask the minister to give very serious thought to that

practice because my God, sir, what can be worse than being boiled alive? The poor lobster is plucked from his habitat and plunged into a pot of boiling water while it is still alive.

**An hon. Member:** Terrible!

**Mr. Carter:** Lobsters are dragged off in a semi-conscious state, their claws are torn off, their tails are removed and they are then eaten by these terrible people who have no consideration whatever for life.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Carter:** If it were not so serious, Mr. Speaker, it would be laughable. The fact remains that regulations being imposed on the sealing industry are based upon the whims of a half dozen people who are more concerned with saving the whitecoats than they are with the slaughter that is going on in Biafra. I am the first to agree that we need conservation in the seal harvest, but we must realize that most Canadian and Norwegian shipping companies and seal hunters will continue to harvest seals in international waters simply because the minister has not been able or has not seen fit to reach an international agreement with respect to the seal hunt. The killing of whitecoats has been banned in a certain section but not far away they are being slaughtered by the Norwegian people. This is because the minister has not reached an agreement whereby this slaughter could be prevented.

In view of the regulation which the minister has imposed on the sealing industry, I seriously ask him to find some way to augment the income of fishermen whose incomes will be affected by the new regulation. I contend that the government should find alternative sources of income for the sealers affected by the new regulation. It is all very well for Lady so-and-so in England and Mr. so-and-so in New Brunswick to start a great outcry against the killing of whitecoats, but we must remember that a large segment of the population of eastern Canada depend upon that industry to augment their incomes and to keep body and soul together during the year.

● (8:50 p.m.)

While I am on the subject of fisheries I should like to call the attention of the Minister of Fisheries to the need for immediate action to establish a salt fish marketing board. As some hon. members may know, Newfoundland fishermen engaged in the salt fish industry continue to sell their fish under the