

actively pursuing the kind of action recommended recently by the Fisheries Council of Canada with respect to the convening of a new law of the sea conference. It seems increasingly likely that such a conference may be held in the near future. The United States and the U.S.S.R. have made a proposal in this connection and the Secretary-General of the United Nations is now canvassing the views of member states on the desirability of holding a new conference. We have been engaged in a wide range of consultations with other states concerning the measures which might be adopted at a new law of the sea conference to give greater recognition to the special interests of the coastal state.

• (9:10 p.m.)

We have even done more than that. We have been pressing very energetically to obtain greater protection for anadromous species of fish, such as the salmon, which spawn in Canadian rivers and then roam far out to sea at recurrent periods of their life cycle. We have urged complete prohibition of high seas fishing for Atlantic salmon within the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. We have had a measure of success in our efforts and we will continue them until the desired results are obtained.

We will go to a new law of the sea conference with a strong position and with the assurance that everything possible has been done to rally support for our point of view. We believe that we can obtain a real and substantial measure of recognition for the special rights and interests of the coastal state at such a conference.

We note that in all the developments that are going on now, in connection with marine pollution, with fisheries and the territorial sea, the whole trend of the law of the sea is towards greater recognition of the special rights and responsibilities of coastal states. These are recent developments which have taken place thanks, in part, to the efforts made by Canada.

There can be no doubt now that the primary concern of all countries, whether they are coastal fishing states or whether they fish far from their own shores, is the problem of conservation. Present fishing methods no longer resemble a harvesting operation but are increasingly becoming a mining operation which threatens to strip and deplete the living resources of the sea. For this reason it is recognized that a rational world-wide system of fisheries conservation management

and exploitation is essential in the common interest of all countries. Such a regime can only be achieved by multilateral agreement among all the countries concerned. At the same time, however, it can only be achieved if all states recognize the special rights and responsibilities of the coastal states.

We will go to any new law of the sea conference to urge this position. If we are not successful in attaining our legitimate objectives, we will of course have to re-examine our position and consider what other action may be required.

In the meantime, the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni is premature and incompatible with the imperatives of the present situation. Moreover, it is out of order.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is the House ready for the question? All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): In my opinion the nays have it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On division.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): The amendment is negated on division.

Amendment (Mr. Barnett) negated.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (for the Secretary of State for External Affairs) moved that Bill C-203, to amend the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): When shall the said bill be read the third time? By leave, now?

Some hon. Members: By leave, now.

Mr. Andras (for the Secretary of State for External Affairs) moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-203, an act to amend the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act, deals with