

*N.W. Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act*

Having said that, may I say I think this legislation is a step forward. It is a reasonable and forward looking attempt to regulate in a sensible manner the conservation of a renewable resource in the northwest Atlantic, to the future benefit of the countries concerned. In view of our geographical position, if these objectives are achieved I am sure Canada will benefit in the long run more than any other country. We are hoping that this will be the result of this small but very important step that we are now taking.

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, last June when we discussed this bill in committee, I think it was generally agreed that no amendments would be offered when it came before the House at report stage, and as we have seen today this has happened. I should like to say that the members of my party are in favour of the legislation. As indicated by the previous speaker, this measure is certainly a step forward in the enforcement of conservation measures as far as the North Atlantic fishery is concerned.

During the discussion of this bill one or two matters did not come through too clearly, so perhaps the minister could clear them up when he concludes debate on this bill. As I recall it, the indication in the discussions last June was that Canadian inspectors would be given the right to inspect the ships of member nations of ICNAF and that these other nations which had inspection ships in the area would likewise have the right to inspect Canadian vessels. One of the points that I think the committee failed to discuss was whether there was any sharing of the cost of inspection.

It is my understanding that some countries—I believe Norway was one but there are other small countries—have no intention of putting inspection ships into this area. While these countries are willing to accept inspection by Canadian or by ships of other member nations, they themselves will have no inspection crews to check the fishing vessels of other nations. Therefore, I am wondering whether there is any kind of pooling arrangement under which the inspection costs are assumed by the nations that inspect, such as Canada, since it is one nation that is not only interested in this fishery but vitally affected by it, or is the cost going to be shared by those nations which do not have ships in the area to do this checking?

I am not too sure how effective Canadian protection officers are going to be in checking vessels that fish the area that has been outlined. We had some discussion of this matter during committee stage, and I was given to understand that the patrol boats would make surprise checks, which I think would be a proper way to carry out their duties. If our inspection forces suspect that the vessels of other nations are not complying with the regulations, say in the matter of fishing gear, size of mesh or type of fish caught, then these vessels can be checked. As I said earlier, I think this is a very good thing.

One point that was raised in committee, and which I would ask the minister to comment on when he concludes this debate, is whether the minister has any further information on the controls desperately needed as far as the inshore salmon fishery is concerned. I believe there are some areas outside the coverage of ICNAF. Certainly, the Atlantic salmon is one species that desperately needs pro-

tection, and some of the nations have been reluctant to reduce their catch. I do not think the commission was able to get majority agreement on this point at the last meeting. I might be wrong, but I believe there was hope there would be agreement amongst the nations to reduce the salmon catch, particularly to the west of Greenland where apparently the Atlantic salmon are caught in great quantities and the catching of them seems to have adversely affected propagation of this species in our Canadian waters. If I am wrong on that point, I should like the minister to correct me, or at least to inform us whether he has any further information regarding this particular species.

• (4:00 p.m.)

I do not think there is much more that we can say about the act. It is a very short and limited piece of legislation, but again I want to say that periodic inspections carried out on this very valuable fishery resource is something that we have long required. I am hopeful that we will see more co-operation than ever before among the nations of the world so far as our fishery resources are concerned, and I think that conservation is the key word in resource development. We are glad to see that a number of nations in the world are willing to move progressively to ensure that adequate checks are made in reaping the crops from this particular fishing area. Again I say that we endorsed the bill in committee and that it is the intention of our group to vote for the bill on third reading this afternoon.

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** I, too, wish to speak briefly on the bill before the House. As the minister has stated, this bill was dealt with by the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry which held hearings on these important changes.

This is an important change in the act governing the International Commission for the North Atlantic Fisheries, in view of the fact that our fisheries resources off Atlantic Canada are facing serious depletion. When the International Commission for the North Atlantic Fisheries was set up in 1949 it was charged, as I understand it, with the responsibility of investigating, protecting and conserving the fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean in order to make possible the maintenance of the maximum sustained catch from these fisheries. It would appear, in view of the decline in our fisheries stocks, that ICNAF has failed to fully discharge its responsibilities. I say this because one of our best managed fisheries resources, if you could use that term, namely our haddock resources, are practically depleted. They are fished in areas called subareas 4 and 5. They have been almost completely destroyed. Unfortunately, this is also true in other areas coming under ICNAF where herring, flatfish, cod, redfish and other species are fished. We heard, for example, a few weeks ago of action taken by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Davis) when he put forth an edict that herring could only be caught in Canada for human consumption. I agreed entirely with that action, but no information was given along with that announcement as to whether the minister or the government had taken any steps to secure agreements with other countries that they, too, would abstain from catching herring for other than human consumption. So today, off the coast of Atlantic Canada we still see the enormous fleets from Europe, the