

The Address—Mr. Davis

very well: this is very interesting to me, having spent all my life in Saskatchewan and being subjected to the provincial authority of one or the other. Talk about Tweedledum and Tweedledee! Two years ago in Saskatchewan our government changed hands, but I did not notice any difference.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner (Battleford-Kindersley): I notice that the term "small businessman" is used in the Speech from the Throne. Not only has the government discovered the west, they have discovered the small businessman. I spoke to hundreds of small businessmen in my travels during the campaign and found them to be desperate and disenfranchised with the socialist provincial and federal governments. I went to a store one day and the owner said to me, "I have an inspector downstairs looking into education tax and an inspector upstairs looking into income tax. If I could sell this place, I would be gone". If you want to do something for the small businessman, get off his back, I say; let him run the business.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Basford: They are all provincial inspectors.

Mr. Horner (Battleford-Kindersley): The throne speech also spoke of assistance to provinces with regard to secondary education. I am very interested in that question since I have had something to do with education in the last six years. Many mistakes have been made in the past in putting federal money into education which is under provincial jurisdiction, and I hope that we will move cautiously in this area. This assistance is certainly needed, but we should not move too quickly.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment and Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, may I first say that it is good to see you back in your place. There are not many of us from the class of 1962 who are still here, and still fewer from the influx of 1958. It is good to see you back in the chair exercising your usual wisdom and compassion.

I shall speak particularly about environmental and fisheries matters tonight and I shall dwell on two paragraphs which appear in the Speech from the Throne. They are important paragraphs and they describe new legislation designed to protect our national heritage. One relates to the management of our renewable resources, the other describes further initiatives which the government is taking in the twin fields of fisheries and oceanography off our coasts. The actual wording, to remind hon. members, is as follows:

Measures to protect the natural environment and to enhance the productivity of Canada's renewable resource industries will be laid before you. In addition to amendments to the Fisheries Development Act, you will be asked to consider an environmental contaminants act and a Canada wildlife act.

The second paragraph in the throne speech which I should like to read is as follows:

To preserve the ecological integrity of Canada's coastal and maritime areas, further preparations will be made for the Third United Nations Law of the Sea Conference. The Ministry of State for Science and Technology, in co-operation with the Department of the Environment and other interested departments, will recom-

[Mr. Horner (Battleford-Kindersley).]

mend a national program of research and development in the field of marine science and technology.

In the first paragraph reference is made to three new pieces of legislation, amendments to the Fisheries Development Act, a new Canada wildlife act and a new environmental contaminants act. Passed by the House, they will form an integral part of Canada's growing arsenal of laws which are essentially environmental in character. Under this heading I would class the Canada Water Act, the Clean Air Act and Canada's Territorial Seas and Fishing Zones Act, among others.

This new legislation has much to recommend it to hon. members, beside helping us to cut down on pollution, help protect endangered species and help us to increase our national output. These pieces of legislation will generate more jobs. They will be most helpful in the disadvantaged parts of the country. By helping us to better manage our renewable resources it will also help us in the fight against inflation in this country.

Hon. members will want me to be specific, and I will try to do so. Let me concentrate for a moment on our proposed amendments to the Fisheries Development Act. The scope of this particular bill will be broadened so that financial assistance can be provided to small inshore fishermen who require ice-making, ice storage and fish-chilling facilities.

Installations of this character are badly needed, especially in our outports. They are needed in order to cut our losses in the fisheries and to improve the quality of our fish. More of the small fisherman's catch, in other words, will reach the marketplace. Being first quality rather than second quality, it will fetch a higher price for fishermen. Now 20 per cent of all landings are rejected by our fisheries inspection service as unfit for human consumption. This is a monstrous waste which can be avoided if we have the right kinds of chilling and preservation facilities. Outright losses are one thing, but of the 80 per cent of our inshore fish which is actually sold, more than half is currently classed as second quality.

Remedying these two situations together will put another \$25 million in the pockets of our inshore fishermen. The cost of this ice-making, ice storage and fish-chilling program is likely to be small compared to the benefits. The once-and-for-all investment of less than \$10 million will produce an annual income increase in the pocket of the fishermen themselves in the order of \$25 million. This is a high benefit cost ratio in anyone's language. Not only does it represent a marked increase in productivity, but it also means that thousands of fishermen in Newfoundland, the Maritimes, across the Prairies, in the Northwest Territories and on the west coast will have more money to spend because they are operating more efficiently and more of their fish is making its way, in good quality, to market. I would put the once-and-for-all cost to the federal treasury at \$5 million, with grants being made on an individual basis. In total, this means that local co-ops and individual fishermen will be called upon to put up about another \$5 million.

• (2040)

I might describe this increase in another way. As a result of this amendment of the act we should be able to