

question of food aid was not raised at that meeting, to my recollection.

Mr. Friesen: Mr. Speaker, the minister referred at length to the law of the sea conference and said that the government had strongly supported such concepts as economic zones, and so forth. People in my riding are greatly affected by this conference. I would ask the minister to elaborate on what he means by "strongly supported". What kind of understanding was reached at the conference which would indicate strong support for protecting salmon and other stocks on the west coast from depletion? Fishermen in my riding and also people on the west coast are concerned about this question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Order, please. I appreciate the hon. member's wish to ask questions of the minister. However, the 30-minute rule does apply. Although questions may be put to the minister and, of course, he may respond, it would have to be with the unanimous consent of the House, because the minister's time would in fact be extended. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I must confess that I was distracted and as a result did not get the full impact of the question.

Mr. Friesen: I was referring to the minister's statement that we had strongly supported the concept of economic zones. I should like, on behalf of the people in my riding and fishermen on the west coast, to have an elaboration of what he means by "strong support." What kind of activities did they undertake at the conference which would ensure the preservation of the salmon stock and other fisheries?

Mr. MacEachen: In a sense, these are two related but separate issues. The first is the question of the economic zone, which involves the management of fisheries within the 200-mile area. Canada has not only supported that concept in its speeches and the activities of the delegation, but it is also continuing to press for management over the sea bed edge of the continental margin because in certain parts of Canada, especially on the Atlantic coast, the continental margin extends beyond the 200-mile limit. While there is overwhelming support for the 200-mile limit, there is still a great deal to be done by the Canadian delegation in gaining support for the additional parts. It might not apply as much to the west coast as it does to the east coast.

● (1620)

I think the work of the Canadian delegation in connection with salmon has been nothing short of—I was going to use the word "spectacular", but perhaps it is better to say it has been very impressive. I do not know if my hon. friend has seen the portfolio prepared by the Department of the Environment, which has been widely circulated, indicating in a very imaginative way the role and life cycle of the salmon and the necessity of undertaking a ban on its high seas fishing, and of granting to the state of origin greater rights and control over the whole life cycle of the salmon. I believe the efforts of the delegation have

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been real and solid, and we shall continue our efforts to obtain acceptance of this idea. As I have said, not many states have salmon, and they do not yet seem to be fully convinced of the Canadian position.

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): First, I should like to congratulate Mr. Speaker upon his appointment. He lives just a couple of ridings to the north of me, so I am well aware of the splendid qualities he has exhibited over the years. I was intrigued by the reference of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) to Madam Speaker. How he, a bachelor, could have resisted all those charms over the years is more than I can understand, when it is clear that he recognizes them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Speaker, the only statement that really stood out in the Speech from the Throne was the admission that there was a bad economic situation throughout the world and that inflation was a worldwide problem. In my opinion, this ignored the fact that Canada is unique among nations in that it is self-sufficient in many things. Canada has its own food, it has energy, it has lumber, it has minerals, it has coal—and a great deal could have been done to control this country's inflation.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, we must face the fact that we are dependent upon exports. In looking over the latest statistics, I find that 50 per cent of what we grow and develop must be sold in world markets, sometimes competitively. It is interesting to note that we are losing those markets. Quantity sales are down, while dollar sales are up.

The Trudeau government promised to cut its spending but they were vague promises; there was nothing specific in them. In the same breath, the government said it was going to help home buyers. But, Mr. Speaker, there is no money with which to build houses, so how are home buyers to be helped? Housing starts are down by 60,000 from a year ago. That \$500 election promise for people buying new homes has already been burned up by inflation. Housing starts are down; there is no capital available, so the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Danson) is suggesting that we bring in foreign capital. He also says that if we do not control urban sprawl in the next ten years, half the population of Canada will reside in our four main cities. The increases proposed in social welfare programs are all good, Mr. Speaker, but there is plenty of room for a rip-off. Apparently one man was paid \$11,000 on welfare and took off for a stay in Mexico. That raises the question of the accounting system. How efficient is it? This is what bothers people.

The Speech from the Throne also promised help for small businesses, and goodness knows it is needed when they are faced with the taxes this government demands. There was also talk of \$500 million to be spent on transportation—railways, and so forth. There was, of course, a promise made every day or every other day, just whenever it would hit the headlines. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) now says this will not work, that the government cannot do it but the railways must do it. Is the government off the hook now? Just promises, promises, promises that cannot be kept, Mr. Speaker.