

Fisheries Ministry

site acknowledge at least some of these attainments. In addition, the hon. member has my gratitude for providing this opportunity for discussion of elements of fisheries which are close to the hearts of many of the people I have the honour to represent.

There is an inequity between the east and west having to do with the continental shelf. I must bring forth for consideration this natural inequity, because when one considers the extent of the continental shelf and slope there is really quite a difference in the east and west.

The continental shelf is defined as the seaward extension of land mass. Canada has a very large continental shelf on the Atlantic coast, sometimes extending far beyond 200 miles, as in the instance of Flemish Cape. However, on the Pacific coast we have only a 50 mile extension south of Vancouver Island.

In the early spring of 1974 the former minister released a map showing British Columbia's seaward extension as being a line drawn along 48 degrees, 29 minutes west which cut off part of the La Perouse bank and an area of Canada's natural extension of the land mass of approximately 500 square miles. This median line principle would be applied because of the situation on the Atlantic coast. I refer to the 1,800 square miles at Georges Bank. Therefore, the proposal for 500 square miles on the Pacific Coast is not unreasonable. In April and May of 1974 herring schools in the area of Juan de Fuca Canyon to the proposed median line were estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 300,000 tons. This is herring of Canadian origin, an anadromous species.

● (1640)

Surely when management, fish processors, the UFAWU, the trollers and native brotherhood agree on this potential food fishery, there should be a means to harvest these resources for a hungry world. There are international inequities which our fishermen must face. I offer this single example but there are many others which could be given. At present Canadians are taking a large amount of scallops from Georges Bank, but Canada has a size limit of 50 scallops per pound while the United States has a limit of 40 and is talking now of going to 30. Some Canadian companies are starting to do the same. What will Canada's catch be then? Assessment has yet to be made of ocean perch, halibut, grey cod, ling cod and herring in the 500 square miles of Pacific territory on which I address my remarks today.

The most lucrative of B.C. fisheries, again an anadromous species, is the salmon. As long as salmon at sea have no national status the salmon resources of this country are in jeopardy.

In my opinion examination of the canyon principle would prove an equity of access for fishermen east and west in this country. I have been warned, however, that adoption of the canyon principal on the coast comes into conflict with the interests of mining and oil industries. There are, we know, untapped oil resources in the area of Georges Bank, even within present boundaries. There are oil shales existing in Hecate Straits, between the mainland and the Queen Charlotte Islands in British Columbia, but in my view it is shortsighted to give away a self-sustaining food resource for a non-renewable resource for which

our technology is charged with developing an alternative. I submit we can, we have in fact, developed other forms of energy, but I ask are we able to develop other forms of protein as readily?

I suggest that the canyon line approach to dividing a continental shelf between nations is not new, and is an easily recognizable line for management and conduct of fishing operations of each nation. In the ongoing negotiations of the Law of the Sea Conference, Canada has been instrumental in getting into the future convention a special regime relating to anadromous species, those species such as the salmon coming to life within our coastal state's fresh waters, then spending the greater part of their adult life migrating to the high seas, and finally returning to the waters of the state of origin to spawn and die. The problem arising out of the present legal situation is that these stocks may, in accordance with the traditional freedom of fishing the high seas, be harvested on the basis of unsound management principles and in a way likely to jeopardize the investment made by the state of origin toward keeping the spawning waters in a state so as to retain the returning species.

The position that Canada has adopted is that salmon should be caught in accordance with the exclusive management powers of the state of origin; further, that there should be a ban on high seas fishing of anadromous species.

There are countries which cannot envisage a coastal state exercising any rights beyond the 200-mile limit. This strict interpretation of the 200-mile economic zone would deprive states of origin such as Canada of any management rights over salmon stocks as they follow their migratory course in the high seas beyond the carefully defined economic zone.

To tell the truth I am really quite confused by the hot demands of members opposite for precipitous unilateralism. There is far more at stake here than a simplistic extension of our fishing zones to 200 miles from our coastline. I find it hard to believe for instance that an able and affable diplomat such as the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) could accept a unilateral declaration now at the cost of control over salmon and other anadromous species in the future.

Salmon are really rather like anadromous Tories in fact; they are independent, range far and wide, and acknowledge none of their members as leader.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): They do not spawn very much though.

Mrs. Campagnolo: We have a corner on that.

The intent of the bill before us today is to ensure fisheries continue as a priority. The appointment of the Minister of State for Fisheries has more than accomplished this beyond any dispute. He has a high level of accomplishment in extending markets, rehabilitating and strengthening certain sections of fishing such as the groundfish industry, embarking on massive salmon development in British Columbia, which is still proceeding in spite of economic restraints, extending reciprocal fishing privileges, providing deficiency payments where needed, revising vessel subsidy programs, encouraging