

*Supply—Fisheries*

that he disagrees completely with the arguments I was advancing with regard to the lack of interest being displayed by the government of Canada as a whole in their dealings with fisheries problems.

I hope that he and other members of the house who have some reason to be interested in the future of the fisheries of Canada will perhaps, on a future occasion, display more backbone in discussing these questions and in challenging the government to take decisive action, than they displayed when some of us were trying to introduce an effective bill in respect of the 12-mile fishing zone.

Item agreed to.

**Fisheries management and development—**

5. Operation and maintenance including Canada's share of the expenses of the international commissions detailed in the estimates and of the costs of programs and projects shared jointly with the provinces and industry, \$14,557,000.

**Mr. Johnston:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to intervene just briefly in this debate. I too, heard the very able presentation made by the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union delegation that came to Ottawa. The matter that concerns me about that brief—and this was alluded to by the previous speaker—is the way in which the causes of the decline in the salmon fishery were categorized therein. The question of Japanese fishing on the high seas was placed at the beginning of the causes. I asked the spokesman for the delegation, Mr. Stevens, whether they had placed it there because it was the most important reason. He said no, he could not say that it was the most important factor in the decline of this fishery.

● (5:30 p.m.)

I also asked him if he did not feel that salmon fishing in the Soviet Union was suffering probably more than the Canadian fishery, and that this might be our best lever in attempting to get the Soviet Union to become a signatory to the salmon fishing treaty in the Pacific. In reply, he said that he thought it would.

I think we need to be extremely careful, when we discuss fisheries, which points we are talking about. We must remember that one is very strategically placed. The province of British Columbia has a very great interest in fisheries. It also has very great interest in trade with Japan over a great variety of areas.

I should like to urge on the Minister of Fisheries three courses of action. I would urge that the budget of the Department of

Fisheries for research be raised to a level where we can begin to find some of the answers to our problems. In going back to the fishery people's own newspaper, the "Fisherman", how many times has one read that it is not known what are the factors involved; that there are a multiplicity of factors which result in the decline of salmon fishing. Japanese fishing on the high seas is only one of these factors. Therefore, I urge a much larger budget for research, which will enable the fishermen to know which are their most important problems.

I also urge the Minister of Fisheries to request the government to take every possible step to bring the Soviet Union into this fishing treaty. I do not think we should be satisfied with the reasons given earlier this session by the minister when he was questioned about this. He implied that we did not know whether the Soviet Union would want to participate in this treaty, and we would wait until we did know. I do not think we can afford to wait, Mr. Chairman.

If necessary, we should ask the co-operation of all members of the treaty to invite the Soviet Union to become a signatory. We have various levers which the other members of the treaty can use, and I am sure they would be amenable to issuing this invitation. We could then have an all-inclusive treaty participated in by all countries concerned. Surely, conservation must be of equal value to all; not just to Canada but to the United States, to Japan—a country very conservation-minded—and to the Soviet Union.

Lastly, I would urge as rapid action as possible over the headlands question or the 12-mile fishing limit, so that we can protect our fisheries to a greater extent than we have the fishery inshore. Perhaps the high seas question may take a little longer to resolve, but there are some areas where we can move more rapidly.

It seems to me that one of the reasons we press for further restrictions on Japanese fishing is this is the country which has been amenable to restrictions. In the fisherman's brief you will find a suggestion that the United States has not been amenable to conservation ideas which have been put forward by this country. The government of the Soviet Union has not been particularly amenable to conservation on the high seas or to being drawn into this type of agreement. Outside of North America, the one nation which has been amenable has been Japan.