

THEREFORE be it resolved that Canada serve notice without delay that it intends to consider the waters off its east and west coasts to the limits of the continental shelf and slope as Canadian fishing zones for purposes of exercising management and conservation controls; and if a Law of the Sea conference would further this objective, that the Canadian government press for such a meeting at the earliest possible date; and

Be it further resolved that the government of Canada clarify the course which its boundaries take across the continental shelf in the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic Oceans.

I am sure that hon. members who are familiar with the fishing industry of Canada recognize that the Fisheries Council of Canada is the official voice of the Canadian fishing companies. Over the years I have had experience in reviewing quite a number of resolutions passed at their annual meetings. I know that resolutions of this type are not brought forward lightly, but only after very serious consideration of all the implications. If I may say so, they tend to take a more conservative approach to some of these matters than other organizations in the fishing industry which I could name.

This resolution urges the immediate declaration by Canada of fisheries jurisdiction of the seas outward to the outer edge of the continental shelf and slope. It indicates a recognition by the fishing industry of Canada of how serious the situation is at the present time as far as this resource and its exploitation is concerned. Rather than follow the faltering and feeble course of extending our jurisdictional control over fisheries resources which was charted at the time the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act was passed in 1964, with its deficiencies as far as concerns protecting our resources, this Parliament should take the course that anyone in the world who is concerned about the preservation of the food resources of the world could not help but agree is a sensible course.

We in this Parliament should not take a dog in the manger attitude toward this resource. I agree with the principle of international co-operation and international conventions for the orderly control and exploitation of resources of the high seas and, indeed, of the world as a whole. However, I have listened to experts in the field of international law and it has become very apparent, during the committee's consideration of this bill and the other one which has to do with control of pollution in the Arctic, how it came into being. Over the centuries international law developed as a result of states taking action in their own interest which at the same time was in the general interest. As those who

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have followed these matters pointed out, what now seems to be the ancient and traditional concept of the three-mile territorial sea developed in this way. Certain nations began to assert in their own interest that vessels of other states had to stay the distance of a cannon-shot from their shoreline. That is how the three-mile territorial sea developed.

In this bill we are moving to extend our jurisdiction to a 12-mile limit. Obviously, this is not to protect us from cannon-shots, but for purposes of navigational control. This amendment is vital to the future of Canada's fishing industry and the resources which are adjacent to our coasts. In former days these were under exploited by our own nationals and the nationals of other nations. However, with the development of modern technology these resources could be depleted overnight. I urge the House to provide this additional indication in the bill, namely, that we are serious about the conservation of the living resources of the sea.

I recognize that with regard to certain species of fish, salmon in particular, the proposals in this bill and in my amendment do not completely cope with the situation. A resolution of the annual meeting of the Fisheries Council of Canada points out the principle that many of us have advocated for a number of years. I refer to the right of a nation that rears the fish which travel far afield in the oceans to feed, to harvest them when they return to the shores from which they came. That is beyond the purview of this bill and therefore I do not intend to explore that situation.

This proposed amendment is of the essence of the bill. It should be apparent and obvious to everyone, in light of what has been happening since 1964, that it is not enough merely to close those gaps in our existing system of straight baselines for fisheries purposes. A large proportion of the total fishing resource lies beyond that. This fishing resource really is part and parcel of the same fisheries on both the Atlantic and Pacific as those close to the coasts. Therefore, I hope members of the House will see fit to give general support to this amendment which I propose to the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act.

• (9:00 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendment to the bill to amend the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act would in