

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

year, and now the costs of putting in a crop will be added to their ordinary living costs. That is why I asked the minister when he would make these payments and that is why tonight I urge him to take action as soon as possible.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, from the earlier discussions to which the hon. member referred it was clearly part of our thinking that it might be possible to secure somewhat earlier payment than had originally been intended, if the payment was not tied to the calculation of receipts for the crop year. This has now been determined, both in order to allow a somewhat earlier payment and also because the base for payment would have been a little difficult in this particular year if crop receipts had been the guide. The plan of payment is none the less very much tied to the whole series of proposals.

The hon. member referred to a number of things which were said when the plan was announced the other day. He did not mention that it was specifically indicated that this was in the nature of a transitional payment, recognizing the proposed phase-out of the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act and the fact that the stabilization plan in its more formal fashion will begin a year from now. This is very much a fact. While we have done certain things, such as the \$10 million market development every year and the announcement of the \$40 million market forage program, this is a group of things that would be best dealt with together. I will be seeking the hon. member's co-operation in moving the legislation speedily forward so that payments can be made. I know how much it will be welcomed in the Prairie region.

The money is important. It is also important—I think the hon. member appreciates this—that we should not mislead eastern or central Canada into thinking this is some kind of handout, which could happen if it were separated from the rest of the proposals in the plan. It is very much a part of the over-all stabilization plan and a phase-out of the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act. It is important that it be kept as one package. There is already far too much misunderstanding in parts of the country about the needs and justice of the case of the prairie farmer for this kind of assistance.

**FISHERIES—CONVENING OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION OF MARINE RESOURCES**

**Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, on February 23 I directed a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) inquiring what action had been taken by his department to convene an international conference on the conservation of our marine resources. The minister replied that the fisheries of the north Atlantic came under the scrutiny of the International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries which would be meeting in Halifax in June.

My colleagues agree that the government has a very serious obligation to take the necessary initiatives to convene an international conference of the fishing nations of the world for the specific purpose of reaching agree-

[Mr. Gleave.]

ment on an effective method to conserve and manage our marine resources. We believe that this matter is important and urgent enough to demand, if agreement among all nations is impossible, this government to take unilateral action to protect and conserve this vital resource.

Canada has become the laughing stock of the fishing nations of the world. It has adopted a jellyfish-type policy. While the minister and the government sit around and play the traditional role of being nice fellows, the Russians, East Germans and other foreign fishing countries are plundering our marine resource right under our noses. We are being raped without even as much as a mild protest. Our inshore fishermen in Newfoundland have had their catches reduced to half what they were ten years ago. In the same period, the total catch in the northwest Atlantic by member nations of the International Commission of the North Atlantic Fishery has increased from two million tons to four million tons. The catch of the Soviet Union in that area in the same period has increased from 117,000 tons to 741,000 tons. What more evidence does this government require to recognize the serious danger of depletion that is facing the fishing industry in eastern Canada?

The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) is too concerned about upsetting the cocktail circuit in Europe. He does not want to upset the cocktail circuit by imposing regulations which might cause some offence. He would prefer to see our fishermen lose their nets and continue to be at the mercy of foreign trawlers and dragnets than take action along with the Minister of Fisheries to put an end to this plunder.

• (10:10 p.m.)

There are a number of difficulties facing the east coast fisheries, not the least of which is the question of the 12-mile limit. I recognize it might be impossible at this point to enforce regulations beyond the 12-mile limit but I contend that the government has a serious obligation to proclaim a 12-mile limit right around the coast. I know they have done so to an extent, after a great deal of urging on the part of my hon. friends and myself. The 12-mile limit has been proclaimed around part of the coast of Newfoundland, but I maintain that all our coast should be protected.

How would any hon. member feel if he were to go into his driveway and find, two or three times a year, that his car had been demolished or damaged by an outsider and that he was unable to do anything about it? How would any hon. member feel if his home were damaged or his lawn destroyed by an outside force? The fishing nets and other gear of fishermen on our east coast are being destroyed almost daily by foreign ships which move in and play havoc without regard for other people's property. When a fisherman tries to prove that they have a responsibility for the damage they have done, they laugh and treat it as a big joke. Canada is becoming a laughing stock among the fishing nations of the world and the captains of the foreign fishing vessels.

I urge the government, the Minister of Fisheries and in particular the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to