

*Supply—Fisheries and Forestry*

immediate solution to look after the purported excess of frozen fish amounting to 40 million pounds that will be in surplus in 1969.

● (3:30 p.m.)

The ninth recommendation is that the federal government arrange to take over the management of the fish resource on the continental shelf as quickly as possible. In other words, Mr. Chairman, the industry needs reorganization and refinancing. This government seems to be afraid to take unilateral action. Yet we see the government claiming the continental shelf, the bottom of the ocean floor, and claiming the air space from the top of the sea, up; but the water in between, where the fish are, seems to be beyond the jurisdiction of our federal government at this time. I strongly recommend to the government that this is possibly the most important step that could be taken at this time or in the future. It is stated that the fishing industry in eastern Canada is in dire trouble. The problems are many and large, and the solutions not easy. The situation can be set straight, but it will take bold and sometimes unpopular action, and it will have to be taken in a hurry.

**Mr. McQuaid:** I am sure that every member of this committee, Mr. Chairman, must regret the fact that we are more or less limited in the time we have at our disposal within which to comment on the estimates of the Department of Fisheries. I consider fisheries to be one of the great industries of Canada. It is certainly an industry upon which our economy in the Atlantic provinces is very heavily dependent. This is an industry in which the men who are engaged in it risk more, work harder and unfortunately get less than in any other trade or industry in which they could engage. If, as I believe, there has been, some slight increase in the standard of living of our fishermen, it is certainly one which they have very dearly earned and one to which they are very rightly entitled. I say therefore it is the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries to see that this industry and the fish resources of this country are developed and improved so that an even further improvement may be made in the living conditions, as well as the working conditions, of the many thousands of Canadians who make their living from the harvest of the sea.

Improved working conditions is an increasingly important aspect of every phase of living today. These proper working conditions

are as important, perhaps even more important to the fishing industry than to any other industry. I realize the provision of adequate wharf facilities, boat harbours, shelters, dredging and matters of this kind are the responsibility of the Department of Public Works rather than the Department of Fisheries. I mention them at this time because of their very great importance to the fishing industry.

Without facilities of this kind, the men just cannot properly do their work, and the industry just will not prosper as it should. The fishermen will try their best but they will be working under very great disadvantages and under conditions which constitute a real hardship. Improved facilities are needed in many places within my own constituency. I am confident they must also be needed in many other areas throughout this country. The Department of Public Works must show a greater interest in these needs and must be made to realize that the success of the industry can be very largely dependent on how well that Department of Public Works does its job. It is most important, too, that this work be done only after prior consultation with the fishermen. They are the men who know best what has to be done.

It is true that they may not have the technical knowledge, but they have what is just as important, the practical knowledge. Engineers, for some reason or other, do not seem to understand where or how to place many of the things that need to be built for fishermen. In many cases they have erected structures or carried out dredging operations which were entirely unsuited to the local conditions. These things were done at great public expense but they did not adequately fill the need. In fact, in many cases they could be very accurately described as a complete waste of the taxpayers' money. I therefore say to these engineers that they should not be afraid to consult with the fishermen before embarking on major construction projects of this nature. They must not be afraid to follow the advice given to them by the fishermen. These fishermen have been working in the area all their lives and they have the practical experience which should prove very helpful.

While I am mentioning fishing facilities, I feel I must comment on the deletion from the estimates this year of an amount to assist in the construction of bait freezing and storing facilities. This item has been in our estimates for the past number of years. This year, for some reason or other, it has been deleted. I cannot think of anything which