

Government Organization

The Secretary of State for External Affairs answered as follows:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have had a number of discussions with the United States government about the definition of our territorial waters and fishing zones. As I said, we do not always obtain agreement on our position, but we are pressing it as effectively as we can.

Yesterday in this house the minister said we were pressing our position effectively. As it happened, last night on a national television program, another person had something to say about this matter. I can name her as I happen to have been a colleague of hers for years. Miss Pat Carney of the Vancouver *Sun* had something to say about this matter. As I said earlier, I have considerable respect for the Minister of Fisheries as a minister. I can also say to the house that Miss Carney is an extremely accurate reporter and it is her custom to double check her facts. I consider her to be one of the most reliable reporters in this city.

Let me read a part of Miss Carney's report to the nation yesterday in respect of the Canadian position on Arctic territorial waters.

She said, and I quote, "one gets the impression that nobody in Ottawa has bothered to sit down and figure out what we should be doing in the Arctic. Officials cannot even agree on whether Parry channel lies in Canadian waters." I urge hon. members to listen to this statement and realize how four departments feel in this regard. "The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, which administers the adjacent islands, is sure it does. The Department of External Affairs thinks it does, although a spokesman says the issue is fuzzy. External affairs minister Mitchell Sharp said in the house today that there are some points in dispute". Again to quote Miss Carney, "some transport officials insist that Parry channel is an international waterway outside our territorial limits because the entrances are between 40 and 60 miles wide, well in excess of the traditional three mile limit". The C.O.T. hasn't yet caught up with our position of 1964. And finally the Justice Department; "The Department of Justice has never heard of Parry channel."

In view of these facts can we believe there is real concern and real sense of purpose in the government in respect of this important issue involving national sovereignty over Canadian arctic waters? This will have a great effect on the welfare of our fishermen on both coasts. Therefore, I urge the Minister

[Mr. St-Pierre.]

of Fisheries to impress upon his colleagues that this is a vital matter to the fishermen and the nation. I thank hon. members for their attention.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak on this part of Bill C-173 which unifies or integrates the responsibility for forestry with the fisheries portfolio. I have serious reservations about using the words "unification and integration" because we are all aware of the chaos which developed when these words were applied to the change of our Canadian forces. I hope very seriously that the results of this change will not be as drastic.

In so far as the province of Newfoundland is concerned, this change is a very important one because these two natural resources are very closely allied in that province. I say this to emphasize the close relationship of fisheries and forestry to the needs of a great number of Newfoundlanders. I welcome this change because the forestry portfolio will now be the responsibility of the Minister of Fisheries who I feel is one minister who does not spend all his time dialoguing, but appears to be trying to use a common sense approach. His introduction of the prices support legislation in the groundfish industry is the only marked development or improvement I have seen in my short few months here in parliament. I hope that the promised legislation for the salt cod industry will be forthcoming very soon. I emphasize my concern because in another month Newfoundland fishermen will be preparing their gear for the coming season. Judging from their feelings and their experiences last year, which result from the weakness of their industry, there is very serious doubt about their willingness to bother fishing at all this coming season.

It is my hope that after so many years of the floundering attitude and approach of the minister's predecessors, we will see a marked and steady progress in this important industry. I am sure this change was the result of the realization of the critical state of this industry. The action was brought about by the sincere and lengthy appeal of my colleagues on this side of the house who emphasized the neglect of the industry in the Atlantic region over the past year.

When I emphasize the importance of the alliance of forestry and fisheries in Newfoundland I do so because over the years, due to the limited length of the fishing season, fishermen have turned to the forestry industry for employment. Therefore, I hope that the