

*Supply—Fisheries*

taking place on the Grand Banks. We should not wait too long before we look into this problem and begin to think in terms of international agreements to establish quotas and to secure agreement on the kind of equipment to be used. Because while the dragnet is a very efficient way of catching fish, it is also a very destructive way. As the net drags along the bottom it scoops up fish of all sizes, among which are a large number of small fish of no commercial value. In winching these fish up to the surface the pressure of the sea kills them, and this is a waste which should not be permitted. We must think in terms of equipment which will reap the same harvest without killing and wasting young fish.

Yesterday the minister spoke about research in the herring industry. To my mind this is typical of what has gone on in the fisheries department over the years. I remember that when I came to this parliament in 1949 I urged on the government very strongly the fact that there were great schools of herring in the ocean not far off Newfoundland which we were not reaping at all. After a couple of years of nagging the government did institute a program of research into this area, but it was on such a tiny scale that it was useless and after a few years reported a failure. But the herring is still there. Our ships are passing over schools of herring, some of which schools are 40 to 50 miles long and one mile wide—millions of tons of them. We should be able to reap that harvest, and I look forward to the day when the herring fishery will be more important to my riding than the cod fishery. We have to find those herring and know where they will be at a certain time, as is the case in the North sea. We must also learn to fish them in deep waters. This will require a sustained program of research, not a sporadic effort where a little ship will go out and do research for only one or two years.

We also have huge halibut grounds. I can remember when as a boy I saw United States bankers, as we called them, fishing for halibut right off the shores of my native village; but today there is very little exploitation of that resource. Off the west coast there is another halibut ground which could be exploited. We need a research program to find our halibut grounds and the best way of exploiting them.

About four years ago the provincial government of Newfoundland initiated a program of using nylon gillnets to take fish. These nylon nets proved so successful that many fishermen who had formerly used cod traps

gave them up and started to use the nylon nets instead. However there was a fear in the minds of the fishermen that because these nylon nets captured the larger type of fish—called mother fish—in time the fishery would be depleted. There is now evidence that those fears are being realized. Whether this is due to the use of gillnets or not no one can say, but that is a question which should be looked into.

I should also like to ask the minister to bring about a change in the legislation which will enable foreign draggers to land fish for processing in Canadian ports, particularly in my riding. These draggers are catching the fish anyway, and at the moment I do not see that this particular piece of legislation serves any good purpose. What it is doing is depriving us of employment in the processing of fish in our ports. If we do not process it somebody else will, so I cannot see why we should not have the benefit of processing this fish ourselves. There was a Japanese firm which was quite interested in establishing a fish plant in my riding, but owing to this legislation the whole thing fell through.

With respect to the shore fishery, if we are going to have a development program we must have both a long term program and a short term program. The long term program, as I see it, should be integrated with the ARDA program. In this way we can centralize people from small, uneconomic communities into larger centres where they will be just as close to the fishing grounds and can perhaps catch even more fish and have the benefits of a centralized population.

In this connection, Mr. Chairman, I want to bring to the minister's attention the fact that in my riding there is a hydroelectric development project that is now going ahead. When it is completed in about four years time there will be approximately 500,000 horsepower of electricity available for industrialization. There is no reason why this electric power should not be utilized in the fishing industry. It would benefit our fish plants which now have to depend upon diesel power, and it would enable the small fishing communities to become electrified. This electric power could be used in the utilization of parts of the fish that are now thrown away. In a fish plant practically the whole fish is utilized, because what cannot be filleted is made into fishmeal and other products; but this cannot be done in small fishing villages at the present time. If we had a good program of centralization carried out under