

*Speech from the Throne*

the environment that has been his and that of his forefathers for generations, and lose himself in the concrete assembly-line jungle to which he is completely unsuited?

Would you want to take on the task, Mr. Speaker, of convincing the fishermen of St. Mary's Bay, Placentia Bay and the Ferryland area that this government is really serious when it talks about the resolution of differences by reason, the practice of tolerance, the acceptance of love and understanding? To our fishermen, who today cannot even put their nets into the water without running the risk of having them destroyed by marauding foreign fishing ships who show neither respect or concern for their lives and property, these are just empty words. How tolerant must our fishermen be? How much longer must they be expected to be reasonable? How much love and understanding must they show? Do you blame our fishermen, Mr. Speaker, if they translate the government's commitment of love and understanding to mean only that Mr. Trudeau loves their taxes and they must try to understand how he uses them?

The fishery, Mr. Speaker, is one of this government's greatest failings as far as we from Newfoundland are concerned. For years we have been promised a 12-mile limit. Our fishermen do not even have this minimum protection, because this government has refused to stand up for our rights. For 3 years, since my Newfoundland colleagues and I were elected by the people of Newfoundland to represent them here in Parliament, we have been almost daily stressing the need for management and conservation of our fish resources and of the desperate need for protection of our inshore fishermen.

The government has pretended to listen. They have taken some steps, but these have been mere window-dressing compared to what is really needed. We can come to only one conclusion. Those of us from Atlantic Canada, where the fishing industry is important and where we see foreign fishing ships move in and destroy our basic resources, can only conclude that the present government is gutless when it comes to standing up to foreign nations who rape our resources and recklessly destroy the gear of our fishermen. It is no secret: for the past three years we have been saying that our fishermen expect more than a 12-mile limit, although the hardy fishermen in Branch, St. Bride's, Admiral's Beach or Southern Harbour would be happy if they could get even that. What we need, Mr. Speaker, is at least a 100-mile fisheries protection zone around our coast, just as Iceland has.

I am at a loss to understand the attitude of this government, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) in particular. They recognize our rights with respect to the airspace above the waters off our coast. They lay claim to the oil deposits on the shelf below the water. But why in the name of God can they not recognize the fact that we own the resources in those waters, the fish? Why are they allowing every other marine nation in the world to come in and take away this resource which, if properly managed and encouraged by the government, could be a valuable input to the gross national product of this nation?

As one of my constituents in Bay Bulls said, "Feed some fish to those Liberals; it might give them some brains." I am inclined to agree.

[Mr. Carter.]

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Carter:** In the Speech from the Throne, the government has taken credit for what they describe as "substantially improved prices to fishermen, upwards of 50 per cent in some cases." I would like the Prime Minister to go to places in my riding such as Ferryland, Cape Broyle, Petty Harbour, Little Harbour East, Portugal Cove South or St. Shotts and show the fishermen how they received 50 per cent more for their fish last year. I dare him to, Mr. Speaker. I have no doubt they would remind him of the promise in the Throne Speech 18 months ago of catch failure insurance, of his promise in 1968 of a just society and an end to regional disparity. What has happened to that? There is no mention of it in this Throne Speech. I hope it is not so, Mr. Speaker, but the absence of such things as catch failure insurance in the Throne Speech leads me to be suspicious that the fisheries branch in the new department is being downgraded, just as we expressed fears that it would.

Of course, catch failure insurance in itself is not enough. Fishermen in my riding require some form of inexpensive insurance to insure their fishing property and gear against storms and other acts over which they have no control. Not only has this government been reluctant to help fishermen who in a great many cases have been wiped out by losses resulting from storms, and so on; they have even refused to repair and replace, where necessary, public property such as wharves and breakwaters which have been destroyed by storms, despite the fact they are vital to the fishermen. I can think of several communities in my riding—Tors Cove, Kingman's, Calvert, St. Vincent's and St. Mary's, to name just a few—where public works have been allowed to deteriorate to the point at which they have become a public nuisance.

• (1740)

The riding of St. John's West is about evenly divided as between urban and rural areas. Before I move on to discuss some of the difficulties being experienced in the city, allow me to mention a couple of other items. The Department of Regional Economic Expansion has not been as successful as many of us hoped when it was originally conceived. One of the reasons the department has not been beneficial to my riding is the failure of the government to accept primary industries, such as fishing and forestry, for eligibility under development incentives plans.

Another reason DREE programs have not benefited areas like Placentia, Dunville, Jerseyside and Freshwater is that the government is too readily influenced by political considerations. These areas required designation as special areas perhaps as much, if not more, than any others in Canada. They were not designated because certain politicians, including the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson), decided there was more political benefit in designating other areas.

In connection with another topic, Mr. Speaker, we are all very optimistic that in the not too distant future the extensive explorations for oil off our east coast will result in major finds. While we are waiting for this to happen the Department of Manpower should, I think, in co-operation with the province, assess the skills and trades required