

*The Address—Mr. Prittie*

their right to control elementary and secondary education. It seems to me that they have enough to do in looking after the needs of the expanding population, building schools, training teachers and modernizing the curricula. There is ample precedent for the federal government to assist at the higher levels of education, and indeed they do assist at the level of secondary education in vocational and technical education. If the provinces are obstreperous and cause too much trouble, then leave them out and deal directly with the students. I was a student after the war. I realize that the circumstances were different then, but I was quite glad to have my tuition at university paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am sure that students in every province will not object to arrangements to help them by any and all methods.

I noticed the press reports of the speech made by the Prime Minister in Toronto last Friday on the occasion of the opening of the airport. He seems to be taking this line of a stronger federal government. I am glad he has done that, and I suggest to him that he has nothing to fear politically in the country if he takes that stand. This parliament receives a mandate from the people quite apart from the mandate given the provincial governments, and I suggest to the Prime Minister that he be strong in his dealings with the provinces, and, what is just as important, that he appear to be strong. There is nothing which will cause more of a decline in the prestige of the government than the appearance of being weak.

Now I want to deal with another matter on the Pacific coast which is of some importance, and it concerns the fishing industry of the province of British Columbia. I am referring to a matter about which the Minister of Fisheries has heard a great deal, and it is a request which has been made for a limitation of licences in the Pacific coast fishing industry. This is not a new topic; it has been discussed before. This step was recommended in a report made in 1961 to the Minister of Fisheries by Dr. Sol Sinclair, a University of Manitoba economist.

However, the problem is particularly acute now, Mr. Speaker. As the years have gone by more and more people have engaged in the fishing industry, but this year, 1964, still a further problem presents itself. The authorities charged with the responsibility for conservation and conservation regulations have decreed, and perhaps rightly—I am not competent to judge this—that there will be very little fishing in some parts of the Pacific coast this summer. On the Skeena river fishing is going to be drastically reduced, and there will be some reduction along the south Pacific coast as well. So it seems to me that

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because of these reductions which will face the fishermen this year this question of licence limitation takes on greater importance at this time.

The problem in connection with the numbers in the fishing industry is this. We have a certain number of people in the industry who are full time fishermen. This is their life's work and they invest their money in boats and equipment, making practically all their income from the fishing industry. But there are large numbers of part time people, or if you like moonlighters, who come into the industry at particular times at the height of the season. They may rent small boats of the type which cannot go very far, perhaps just into the gulf of Georgia or the mouth of the Fraser river; they are people with other occupations and incomes who are participating in the fishery at a time when the full time fishermen are trying to make a living for themselves. The consequence is that the available income is spread over far too many people.

To give you some idea, Mr. Speaker, of how many people enter the industry by buying a licence, which carries a minimum fee, doing some fishing and then leaving, I quote from a report prepared in 1961 by Mr. Blake A. Campbell, chief of the economics branch of the Pacific area for the Department of Fisheries. He noted that in 1960 persons taking out fishing licences for the first time totalled 3,036. The year before, 1959, 3,843 persons took out fishing licences for the first time. Those who took out licences in 1959 and failed to renew them the next year amounted to 30 per cent of the total number. So this shows that we have this group of people who come into the industry for a little while, make a little extra money—and, mind you, they have other occupations—and then may not return the next year, in the meantime making it difficult for the full time fishermen.

The problem has been further aggravated this year by the fact that the shipbuilding subsidy has been making it possible for those with large amounts of capital, such as fishing companies and some of the more prosperous fishermen, to build more modern equipment and larger ships with more efficient gear. This also makes it difficult for the ordinary fisherman who operates from a small boat. These things, combined with the conservation measures in sight this year, indicate that a very difficult year is ahead, and that it is time to take another look at the request for licence limitation.

I realize there are some objections to this. When the report was presented by Dr. Sinclair in 1961, the minister of the day said there was opposition from some parts of the