

Storage Facilities for Fish

implement the suggestions made by the hon. member for Bonaventure and the fishermen of the Magdalen Islands.

An hon. Member: That is right!

Mr. Béchard: Mr. Speaker, I think I have said enough a short while ago about what the various federal departments have done to assist the fishing industry. A lot has been done, but there is still a lot to do.

There is also the part played by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion for the development of fisheries which awarded grants to industry in the designated areas. Other plants like the one at Ruisseau-Leblanc, which I mentioned earlier, could themselves make good use of such grants.

Again in the Magdalen Islands, in order to help families who until now had been living on social welfare during a good part of the year, we built a plant last year at Grande-Entrée, with the co-operation of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, and this plant was awarded a \$40,000 or \$60,000 grant. As soon as it went into operation, its manager, who is also the mayor of Grande-Entrée and who took the initiative of establishing it told me: "I had to go as far as Havre-aux-Maisons to recruit workers". He had to hire people 60 and 65 years old because no one else was available. He had to hire people 60 and 65 years of age because no other workers were available since most families had been living on welfare until then, that means they were sponging off society.

That is what the government did to help fishermen of that small village of Grande-Entrée in Magdalen Islands.

Assistance to shipbuilding is also worth mentioning. As recently as last year, thanks to the federal government, two very big trawlers were launched at Sorel shipyards for a company operating at Cap-aux-Meules in Magdalen Islands. I was told this fall that the two boats made miraculous catches last summer and we paid 35 per cent of their construction cost or about \$1 million. That amount represents the contribution of the federal government to help the fishing industry in Magdalen Islands.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, the fisheries problem is one of the most important ones in this part of the country, and in my riding in particular. I think the federal programs implemented at this time are and will be very beneficial if the government is willing to listen to the local people who are prepared to accept centralization but, who want at the same time the little fishermen to be able to make a living. To do this, the small fishermen not only those of Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine but also in Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe as well as Newfoundland, in short, all Canadian fishermen, must be able to continue to live from that industry where it is difficult to earn a livelihood, I must admit.

However, the fishermen who have intestinal fortitude,—those I know, at least,—want to earn their livelihood and not depend on social welfare. They want society, the Canadian government to which they pay taxes, to give them, in return, the facilities that will enable them to ply their trade and provide honorably and honestly for their families.

[*English*]

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, it is a strange situation when one finds himself

[Mr. Béchard.]

rising to speak to a motion in which he has already spoken. I gather that under the arrangement made earlier we are discussing the motion of my friend, the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall), but with the permission of the House I shall direct my remarks more along the lines of the motion which is included in this debate. If this is objectionable to anyone, I hope he will say so now.

With the help of the library I shall do something which I rarely do, that is, refer to notes because I think this matter should be put on the record very extensively. I am very pleased to see in the House the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Davis). Problems of the sea are a major part of his responsibility and he is very much aware of them.

• (4:30 p.m.)

The economic, social, cultural or other goals sought by a society determine the value of scientific enterprise in any field. The Science Council of Canada undertook to identify a set of goals indicative of the aspirations of Canadians, the factors or elements basic to the attainment of each goal, the contributions of science and technology to such attainment and conditions favouring the technological effort. For example, one element in national prosperity is the reduction of regional economic disparities; and technological contribution might be the development and application of new marine technology in existing or new industries, or sound programs for the optimum use and conservation of ocean resources.

Freedom and security for the nation and its people are dependent upon the development of necessary military technology, particularly in this age of atomic submarines and the deployment of missiles throughout the inner space of the ocean. An element in world peace is the limitation of hunger. By means of advanced technology, the ocean could be a more productive source of foods, particularly of proteins, which are deficient in many areas of the world. Exploitation of the mineral and chemical resources of the ocean could benefit the economies of some developing nations as well as those countries which possess the advanced technology to effect such recovery. Certainly, the global character of marine science would make it a useful instrument of foreign policy and foreign aid. Oceanography, marine and undersea technology is an area to which the Science Council proposed to give future consideration after major programs were started in space, in water resources management and in some other important fields in Canadian life.

Perhaps the pace of technological development is hastening consideration of Canada's future in oceanography, which may in the near future lead to a more definitive statement of national objectives relative to the ocean. It has been more than a year since the Science Council of Canada made known in its report to the nation its views. Not the least alarming fact in this connection is that there has been no useful or meaningful progress along the lines recommended in reports that have been before us for a considerable period. The Committee on Marine Science and Technology reported in 1970 on organization for the formation and implementation of national marine policy, the need for a major program in marine science and technology, some major projects, facilities, manpower needs and the scale of marine science and technology