

Perhaps there are ways for us to give some incentive to our industrial people to encourage private input into this kind of research. I would hope that we might consider additional tax incentives as encouragement for this particular kind of research, which in the long run is so essential to the establishment of our national claims over the continental shelf and for eventual full exploitation of this area.

In early 1970 President Nixon made certain proposals which were among the most important international proposals made by any country for a long time. They envisaged a world treaty under which nations would give up a good part of their claims to most of the riches of the world's seabeds. He proposed giving up to 90 per cent of the seabed to an international agency, with royalties going for international community purposes. The area beyond the depth of 200 metres to the outer limits of the continental margin would come under a special form of trusteeship whereby the coastal state would have the right to control access, exploitation, pollution and, in fact, the full development of the area to the limits of the continental margin without going so far as recognizing full, absolute and complete national jurisdiction over this area.

Canada has not taken an official position on the Nixon proposals. Our position seems to be at the moment that we agree there is an area which is beyond our national jurisdiction. We agree that there must be a more precise definition, and we agree that the area beyond must be exploited for mankind and in particular for underdeveloped countries. We have been, I presume, deliberately nebulous on this subject because the government has not made up its own mind.

I feel quite strongly that now is the time for Canada and every country in the world to move toward greater international input into undersea and sea exploitation. I do not think we can allow ourselves many more years of complete freedom of exploitation. Whether it be undersea exploitation, seabed exploitation or exploitation of the animal resources of the sea, we will have to bring this under international control eventually. It therefore seems to me it is to the distinct advantage of almost every country in the world to move toward a much more concrete form of international control than we have now.

The United States proposals perhaps have a military aspect to them in that the trusteeship suggested by President Nixon would eliminate the pattern of extending national jurisdictions to the edge of the continental margin. However, because this particular aspect of the U.S. proposal exists, I do not think we should underrate it or fail to see the tremendous value that exists in this proposal for a movement toward an international sea regime and much greater international co-operation between the peoples of the world. The countries of the world during the last few years seem to have been regressing into nationalism. This regressive nationalism which is occurring even here in our part of the world is not to the long-term advantage of any of us. The need for assistance to underdeveloped countries is greater than it has been and will be even greater in years to come.

#### *Marine Resources Program*

I would suggest that development undersea resources on the so-called outer margin of the continental shelf is an area that should be exploited for the benefit of all mankind. I would take a position supporting the Nixon proposals, but the depth of the continental shelf could be an area of compromise. In fact, I disagree with the Canadian position if it is to be that we lay full claim to the continental shelf to its outer margin without any provision being made for a contribution from this extremely rich area to the underdeveloped countries of the world.

There is room for compromise in the Nixon proposals, but I do not think the Canadian position should be what it appears to be developing into, to lay full and absolute claim to all the continental shelf to its outer margin. This is an exercise of Canadian nationalism with which I would not agree. The trusteeship proposal should, however, be expanded upon. We should not simply have a trusteeship in this area of the continental shelf extending from a depth of perhaps 200 metres or 400 metres to the edge of the continental margin only for the purpose of exploitation of the seabed or beneath the seabed resources. We should have an international trusteeship set up whereby we can control, for conservation purposes, all the animal life in this area.

● (5:50 p.m.)

There are presently many examples of misuse of fishing rights which other countries have acquired over the centuries on both our east and west coasts. It is essential that a better international framework be established soon for this area.

I would hope the government of Canada will push strongly for another conference on the Law of the Sea. I should like to see us modify our position on the outer continental shelf to take into account the real need which exists for additional aid to the underdeveloped countries and which would take into consideration the danger inherent in increasing nationalism around the world. I would hope we would take a step toward the world community to which I believe most of us aspire over the long term.

**Mr. Grant Deachman (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, as we draw to the conclusion of a debate of this type it is good to return to the starting point; therefore, I wish to refer to the resolution put forward by the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall). Through this resolution the hon. member has given us an opportunity during the past hour to debate a topic which is of vital interest to Canadians. The resolution states:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the development, encouragement and maintenance of a co-ordinated, comprehensive, and long-range national program for the recovery and use of the resources of Canada's seacoast waters and continental shelves; and to this end, effectively utilize the scientific and engineering knowledge and skills of the public service and government agencies and co-operate with private investment enterprise in the exploration, technological development and industrial use of the resources of the marine environment of Canada.