

other areas. Will these fishermen be required to go on relief? What other type of fishing can they pursue? Who is to pay the enormous cost of new equipment for some other type of fishing which may be found to be suitable? These are serious questions. It is interesting to note that tests made at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California indicate that some of the lead pollutant from automobile exhausts were found in liver tissue of sea bass caught off the coast near smog-plagued Los Angeles. Obviously, we are moving in the right direction in setting up legislation to purify our air and water in co-operation with the provinces.

If hon. members refer to Schedule A of this bill, they will note that pollution is only one facet of the responsibilities of the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davies). It became evident sometime ago that control of pollution in Canada should receive number one priority from the government. However, its policies to date have seriously fragmented our pollution control authority thereby leaving our industries, provincial and municipal governments in a state of chaos and uncertainty regarding our pollution laws. At present our pollution control laws are under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene), the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson), the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien), the Minister of National Health and Welfare, (Mr. Munro), the Minister of National Defence (Mr. MacDonald) and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Laing). These ministers under whom responsibilities fall for control of pollution do not have a co-ordinated plan of attack in order to deal with this vital problem. Therefore, our programs are bogged down in waters muddier than our policies were supposed to cure.

As we say in Atlantic Canada, our pollution program was all sails and no rudder. It was going everywhere, but nowhere, as no leadership was provided. Hopefully, this leadership will be provided under the new department of the environment. However, it is disturbing that the Department of Fisheries and Forestry will be lost in the shuffle. Under the British North America Act, legislative jurisdiction over fisheries is vested in the federal government. Over the years, the federal government has delegated its powers over fresh-water fisheries to the provinces. Non-tidal fisheries are administered by the provinces and the tidal-fishery or saltwater fishery is administered by the federal government. Recently the fresh water fish marketing corporation was established in co-operation with the provinces. Generally speaking, regulations proposed by the provinces are approved by the federal government. This makes legislative jurisdiction over fisheries matters' national in scope.

● (3:50 p.m.)

Upon checking the records, I find that Canada's federal fisheries service began with confederation but it functioned as a branch of other departments, such as marine and fisheries, until 1930 when the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King established a separate department of

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fisheries. In explaining his action for creating a separate ministry, Mr. King read the list of acts for the administration of which the minister would be responsible, and then stated:

These are matters of considerable importance. The hope is that this all important resource and the industry to which it gives rise will be developed to a much greater degree than has been the case in the past. If the minister devotes his time and attention to that end, he will find plenty to do.

These are not my words; they are the words of a former Liberal Prime Minister, but in my opinion that admonition could be given today, in 1971. Since I was first elected as a Member of Parliament in 1957, I have not been able to avoid the feeling that in some parts of Canada the fishing industry is looked upon as being of no importance. This, of course, is unfortunate, and I hope the present government will not become a party to furthering this type of attitude throughout the nation. In my opinion, and in the opinion of the party I represent, the commercial fishing industry is vitally important, not only to the economy of the Atlantic provinces but to Canada as a whole.

To give you some idea of the importance of this industry, I point out that the total catch by some 68,000 Canadian fishermen during 1969 amounted to 2.7 billion pounds, with a landed value of \$182 million. In its 23rd annual report dated June 1970, the Fisheries Prices Support Board estimates that the value of fishery products derived from the 1969 catch—of which 70 per cent was exported—will amount to approximately \$370 million. The United States continues to be our main export market and the figures I have mentioned are most important when you consider that these earnings for the most part are distributed over vast areas of Canada. In some cases fisheries income represents the only earnings in regions of economic disparity.

The government of Canada cannot help but become involved in many problems of an international nature if we are to obtain the greatest advantages for our fishermen engaged in the principal Canadian fisheries on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Without question, the conservation of stocks of fish, which are in danger of extinction from causes other than pollution, is of vital importance at the present time. One of the most critical areas is in the north Atlantic, where Danish fishermen have virtually depleted the stocks of Atlantic salmon. Many of the salmon caught by the Danes are from Canadian salmon hatcheries, though this is only one of our problems.

Another serious situation on the east coast relates to the diminishing stocks of haddock, cod, redfish and flatfish. It is now generally agreed that stocks of haddock and redfish are virtually extinct on the Grand Banks, and flounder stocks are being depleted. Furthermore, it is now abundantly clear that inshore cod stocks are less and less dependable because of continuing excessive fishing efforts by foreign fleets. In fact, our Canadian inshore and offshore fishermen are appalled and alarmed at the accelerated pace of events and the relentless pressure on our fishing resources by huge foreign trawlers. This over-