

Employment Support Bill

ating in Canada since they will help them to maintain their employment level.

Considering our increasing difficulties and since, from time to time, we hear that factories are closing down, I think it is high time for the government to take this action and I certainly will not hesitate to support this measure and urge my hon. colleagues to do the same.

[*English*]

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I thought I might evoke some sort of favourable response by saying that I gather there is general disposition to conclude this bill this evening. I do not intend to detract from that. I briefly wish to put forward some ideas that I am sure will not persuade hon. gentlemen in the Liberal party in any way, because their minds are obviously set and they will proceed with the bill regardless of the validity of the objections to it and explanations regarding its shortcomings.

I want for a moment or two to talk about one of its shortcomings relating to one group of people in this nation who for a long time, so far as their economic position is concerned, have been denied justice, fair play and fair consideration by this and preceding governments. I am talking particularly about commercial fishermen who are excluded from the bill and from any of its piddling benefits.

Our commercial fishermen have been denied equity in many areas. One that comes to mind quickly was dealt with yesterday in the question period. This government completely ignored the unanimous recommendation of the fisheries committee with respect to extending fishing zone jurisdiction to the continental shelf and the continental slope. I do not want to talk about what the fisheries committee did a couple of years ago, because that is not germane to the subject and would not be in order. Yet it is a fact that every Liberal member on that committee, every Conservative and every representative from my party voted in support of the idea that, immediately, our fishing zone jurisdiction should be extended to the edge of the continental slope and shelf. We realized that the fishermen of other countries were moving into those areas, had been doing so for a long time and were catching groundfish or bottom fish which properly and in a normal sense belonged to Canada. The government rejected that idea, creating inequity for fishermen on both coasts of this nation.

Another area of inequity relates to the government's program of buying out fishing vessels from the salmon industry. On October 2, next weekend, there will be an auction of 50 salmon fishing boats, I think it is, that were bought by the government from fishermen on the west coast. These boats will now be auctioned off to those who want to buy them. Of course, any Canadian who buys one of these salmon fishing boats will not be able to use his boat to engage in the salmon fishery in Canada. The government's purpose is to reduce the salmon fleet and to reduce the number of people who are involved in salmon fishing. So the Canadian who buys such a boat at the auction to be sponsored by the government at Delta Marine, Richmond, near Vancouver, on October 2 will not be able to use his boat for fishing. Otherwise he will be able to use it for whatever purpose he wishes.

[*Mr. Salle.*]

But there is no prohibition against a United States citizen who buys one of these boats. He may use a boat that was taken out of the salmon fishery of Canada, take it across the line into Alaska, Washington or Oregon, and put to sea in it. He may use it as a fishing vessel and thereby increase the size of the United States fishery fleet. He may catch salmon which are spawned in Canadian fishing channels, in Canadian rivers, and which are considered as Canadian fish. This is the inequity being perpetrated against the fishing industry in Canada. It is being deliberately brought about by the government opposite, which not only wants to see our fishing fleet curtailed but wants to see the Yankee fishing fleet increased to our detriment. I say that because the Americans will be able to fish for salmon which have come from our own Canadian rivers and spawning grounds.

We know the situation at Hecate Strait and the like. I do not want to go further into that question except to say that our fishermen who are disadvantaged by the 10 per cent United States surtax are not offered any degree of protection, assistance or help under this bill. Not only will the government's tax bill attempt to destroy the co-operative movement of this nation, but the provisions of this legislation will assist in the destruction of the co-operative movement. Let me read briefly one paragraph from a letter that the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-operative Association sent to the minister responsible for fisheries on September 16, relating to the 10 per cent surcharge. They say in part as follows:

Our association has felt the effect of this surcharge immediately, and most specifically in the sale of a carload of mild-cured salmon, which was already loaded when President Nixon made his announcement. Further it will affect us appreciably on the export of sole fillets and halibut flitches, where the duty has increased from 0.2 cents per lb. to 2.5 cents per lb.

Anybody in the least familiar with the fishing industry and the export of fish will know that an increase of that nature can be, and is, disastrous. I am merely putting forward my ideas for the record because I know that hon. gentlemen opposite in the Liberal Party have minds like concrete. They are well mixed and well set and are not disposed to listen to reasonable arguments. They want to continue participating in this "love the United States" program that they are embarked upon. Whatever is helpful to the United States is helpful to Canada—so they think. I think it is regrettable that the government has engaged in this sort of activity and has denied the primary producers of our nation fair play and justice under this bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Is the House ready for the question.

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The question is on the amendment to the main motion. All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.