

Supply—Fisheries

certain extent, for fisheries improvement loans. There is still an absence of a comprehensive development policy. There is still a serious disparity between the provision made for the fishing industry as opposed to the provision made for agriculture. This problem will not be met by mere additions or improvements to the present system. I think there must be a fundamental admission that the federal government has never involved itself in this segment of the economy to the degree it is capable of doing. If ever a government was justified in intervening in the economy it is justified in the case of the fisheries of this country.

The fisheries of Newfoundland have not changed very much over several hundreds of years. I feel there is an unrest, today, among the fishermen. Geography and a great many other factors have brought about the slowness to change, which we have seen up to the present; but today the time is ripe for this government to take positive action and to depart from the traditional approach. This may involve a great deal of change in our thinking, but I believe it is necessary. Until now, I do not believe we have had a Department of Fisheries which has been prepared to tackle this problem. This is the task which now faces the present minister and I have confidence that during his term of office a great deal will be accomplished.

[Translation]

Mr. Côté (Chicoutimi): Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a few remarks about the estimates of the Department of Fisheries, not only because I am very fond of sea food, but mostly on account of a pleasant experience I had last summer. I then had the opportunity to visit the home town of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Robichaud), and I must say to his credit that the people of Caraquet are very proud of their minister.

I found out at the same time that the people of Caraquet and from that area of New Brunswick are extremely courteous. I was even able to note a certain spiritual relationship between the people of that area and the Saguenay population of which I am a humble representative in this house.

For instance, I found out that Reverend Father Labrosse, who had been a missionary in Caraquet, had also been a missionary in the Saguenay area during the same period. This finding has enabled me to establish closer relations with the people of that highly considered area of our country who are almost 100 per cent French.

During my stay in that region, I realized the importance of our sea and deep sea fisheries for the economy of Canada.

I questioned at length the inshore and the deep sea fishermen. I went aboard their trawlers and even had the opportunity of visiting their fish processing plants.

Mr. Chairman, the reason I am making these few remarks tonight is that those people, who are constantly risking their lives, those conquerors of the sea, are not making the profits they are entitled to.

For instance, I have found that even when their trawlers came in with some 75,000 or 80,000 pounds of fish, the owners could only rely on their small unemployment insurance benefits to meet their needs during the winter season.

As a matter of fact, when you realize that a trawler costs between \$75,000 and \$90,000 and that unemployment benefits are the only source of income its owner has during winter, you really wonder how he can manage.

Fortunately, I understand that their profits are somewhat bigger now than they used to be.

I noticed, especially in the neighbourhood of the small town of Caraquet, that people are leaving farming for fishing.

Once again, I should like to point out to the house that the income of fishermen is not adequate, in my opinion.

Mr. Chairman, I have also noticed that fishermen in the Gaspé peninsula complain because fishermen from the maritime provinces do some fishing along the north shore of the St. Lawrence. In fact, the Gaspé fishermen feel that they have to put up with unfair competition from the maritime fishermen because the latter have better equipment to fish along the north shore. I feel that such a conflict should be fairly easy to settle, and I am drawing it to the attention of the minister who, I believe, is himself a descendant of those conquerors of the sea.

Those are the few remarks I wanted to make, Mr. Chairman.

[Text]

Mr. Clancy: Mr. Chairman, I should like to congratulate the minister upon introducing his estimates for the first time, and in looking at the benches I also wish to congratulate him on the support he is getting from the Pacific coast. I think that the question I was going to ask might perhaps be better left to someone from the Pacific coast. What concessions are we giving the Japanese under the north Pacific treaty, which has just been completed?

As one who comes from Saskatchewan I deplore the fact that that delicacy, the gold-eye, is disappearing as the result of the damming of rivers, and I say to the people from