

Speech from the Throne

large factory ship. One of the latest additions to the Soviet fleet is the giant 43,000 ton *Vostok* which carries on board 14 catcher vessels each of 66 tons. The ship also carries a helicopter for spotting schools of fish, and apart from the working and living accommodation has a club, a cinema, a concert hall, a library, shops, a medical centre and a swimming pool. It has a power generating station sufficient to provide power for a town of 10,000 people.

Obviously, the Soviets are not concerned about the cost of catching fish. They have a different motivation. They catch fish for food, while we in Canada, the people in our industry, must try to catch fish for profit, which is very difficult to do at present; in fact, it is becoming impossible. In addition to the *Vostok*, the Soviets have 600 factory and freezer stern trawlers, and Japan has built up a similar sized fleet which searches the world for fish.

You may well ask, what chance have the fish of escaping this onslaught; what are their chances of survival? The answer is that they are not surviving. Press releases by the Department of Fisheries show that the dollar values are high, reflecting, I would point out, higher prices due to the scarcity of the product. I regret the fact that the government, in the Throne Speech, takes credit for these higher prices. The higher prices are due to the decline and scarcity of the product, not to any action that has been taken by the Trudeau administration.

However, according to fisheries statistics the total pounds landed dropped from 1,233 million in 1969 to 1,121 million in 1971. In view of the decline in haddock catches, controls have been applied in some areas under ICNAF supervision, but it is too early to assess the results. However, I believe this type of fisheries management will have to be applied to other species if the stocks of fish are to recover in sufficient quantities to provide us with a viable fishing industry.

It cannot be said too often or too strongly that fishing is a major factor in the economy of Atlantic Canada, and every effort must be made to see that it is preserved. Where fishing quotas have been established by ICNAF there has been international acceptance of these restrictions. However, quotas, to be effective, must be set at a point somewhere below recent catches. This must be done if they are to achieve the desired effect of rehabilitating stocks of various species. I believe in setting up any management system for our fisheries and that the rights of the coastal state to manage our fish stocks must be recognized. Haddock, flounder and codfish are already being overfished and there is evidence that herring are now being fished close to their maximum sustainable yield. Quotas on haddock and flounder have already been set in some areas, but other species must be protected.

I mention these facts so that the government will be aware of the serious problems facing our fishing industry and will take a stand on them before it is too late. Certainly, we from Atlantic Canada are trying to do everything we can as members representing these areas to make the government aware of the serious problems facing our fishing industry. As the government is aware, Iceland has a conservation problem and it announced in July of 1971 that it will extend its fisheries jurisdiction by September, 1972, to the outer limits of its continental shelf.

[Mr. Crouse.]

When taking this stand, the Icelandic government stated that it is unrealistic that foreign nationals can be prevented from pumping oil or other resources from the seabed or the subsoil of the continental shelf but that they cannot in the same manner be prevented from destroying other resources which are based on the same seabed. I contend that is a good philosophy for Canada to adopt.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crouse: This is the type of positive stand that Canada should now be taking. If the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) had any backbone, our fisheries would not now be facing disaster. The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis), in his speech to this House on October 14, 1971 as recorded at page 8678 of *Hansard*, said the following:

Our basic approach is to establish a managed fishery not only in our own exclusive limits but out over all our continental shelf—which in cases extends 400 miles into the Atlantic and all of the slope beyond it and to insist that in future it is by agreement a managed fishery.

• (2140)

Obviously, the Minister of the Environment and Minister of Fisheries got the message from our fishing industry. Obviously, he is willing to take a stand on the matter, and I assure him, through you, Sir, of the support of the official opposition for his stand as put forward on October 14, 1971. However, I realize that he must also have the support of Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, who has procrastinated ever since being appointed to that portfolio in introducing fisheries legislation designed to conserve our fisheries resources. This was the fault of his Liberal predecessor who faithfully promised our fishermen a 12-mile limit away back in 1964. I think it is regrettable that the present minister is following the same path.

Our fishermen, Mr. Speaker, want performance, not promises. I say to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Prime Minister and to the government, that they may be able to wait until the Law of the Sea Conference is called some time in 1973, or in 1974—we learned, in answer to a question this week, that the date, has not yet been set—but the foreign fishing fleets are not waiting; they are vacuum-cleaning our fishing grounds, and by the time a conference is called many of our important species will be depleted beyond the point of no return. The situation is crying out for action now. I hope this government acts before it is too late to save this important primary industry which is vital to the over-all economy of Atlantic Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate having the honour to express my entire approval to the mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I should like to focus on the main points of the Speech from the Throne and bring the government to face what it has done.

How far have we got since this government has been in power? I shall review the highlights of the speech. I am not criticising the speech as a whole because it contains some points I approve of. I shall limit myself to asking the