



Christopher Pratt, *Labrador Current*, 1973, 18x18, Collection: R. G. Seaborn.

The Problems We Face and the Efforts to Find Solutions

UNTIL THIS CENTURY the oceans were places to sail on and to fish in. It is now recognized that they can be exploited in new and frightening ways: there are oil and gas to be drilled, minerals to be mined and new efficient ways to catch fish. Everyone agrees on the problems but not on the solutions.

There are three basic viewpoints. Major maritime nations wish the sea to remain as "free" for navigation as possible, coastal nations wish to establish areas of special jurisdiction in the waters

off their coasts, and landlocked nations and those with small continental shelves want the mineral resources of the sea to be "internationalized" to the greatest possible degree. Of course, interests overlap (maritime nations are also coastal) and a nation that fits into one general grouping on one issue may fit into another when a different question comes up. Below we discuss the three kinds of resources of the oceans — petroleum and gas, minerals and seafood — and the conflicting points of view.