

Adjournment Debate

concern compared to what I have in mind at the moment.

• (1810)

The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) in a letter to my colleague, the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton), stated that Canada opposes Japan's proposal for alternate fishing areas and for a change in the northern boundary of its squid fishery in the north Pacific which, if implemented, would result in increased interception of Canadian original salmonics. Yet Canada agreed to the Japanese request to move that boundary north some 2 degrees, 120 miles. The Japanese have unilaterally announced that they will move their boundary for the squid fishing area 2 degrees further north. There is overwhelming evidence that the line needs to be moved further south to prevent the taking of salmon and steelhead. The Japanese maintain that they are not harvesting North American salmon or steelhead. Yet there is much evidence available of pirating of these salmon, not by the Japanese in particular, but by the drift-net fleets in total, and selling them in the markets of the world.

What is Canada doing about it? Canada's attitude is that we had to agree to what the Japanese demanded. If we are just a patsy in this game of international powers, why are we bothering to go there? If we are not going there with our own agenda, if we are not going there determined to do something to stop this, to control the situation at least, and hopefully to stop it, then why bother pretending? Canada does have muscle, I submit, muscle that it could use. However, Canada prefers to take it easy and not upset anybody.

There have been reports of people being charged, but they are not being charged by Canadians but by Americans. There are names and everything else available.

A pact has been agreed to among Japan, the United States and Canada. Canada agreed to the 2 degrees north and to put five observers on some 500 boats—one per hundred. That was a major victory. I suppose five is better than none.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, the concern about cutting back on nuclear arms and the necessity of having inspection. Would the United States be satisfied if the Russians said: "We will have our own observers and we will tell you what they see. You can bring one, two or

three if you like and we will look after them while they are here". Would that be satisfactory? It would not be satisfactory to the Americans. It would not be satisfactory to the Russians. Yet that is what we have agreed to. We have said: "Yes, we will have five observers. You put them wherever you want and look after them". We will rely on the Japanese observers to observe their own fleet.

Korea has also come in lately and said: "Yes, we will agree to the procedure as well". However, there has been no mention of how many observers, if any, just that they will abide by the rules.

This is an important issue. Can we rely on the people who we believe are breaking the rules to police themselves? I would suggest not.

Mr. Ross Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to reply to the question and the comments made by the Hon. Member for Nanaimo—Cowichan (Mr. Stupich).

Canada is opposed to the current use of drift-nets in the Pacific Ocean because the drift-net fisheries operated by Japan, Korea and Taiwan intercept North American salmonid stock and kill large numbers of other marine species, as well as sea birds.

Since 1982, Canada has been taking a leading role in international efforts to bring this fishery under control. Recent actions by the Government with regard to the Japanese squid drift-net fishery in the north Pacific have provided a breakthrough in this effort. There will be, in 1989, for the first time, a substantial observer program in the Japanese squid drift-net fishery, including Japanese, Canadian and U.S. observers.

It must be understood that Canada does not have the legislative authority over the Pacific squid drift-net fishery as the fishery occurs entirely in international waters. There are no international treaties or agreements in place with Japan or any other nation which governs squid drift-net fishing.

Contrary to what is sometimes assumed, the squid fishery is not under the authority of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

The Japanese squid drift-net fleet is subject to some restrictions pursuant to understandings reached between Canada, the United States and Japan. It is prohibited