

Phasing Out Foreign Fishing Operations

action we can expect the government to take, over and above the recent very specific move, to try to push these foreign vessels outside the 12-mile limit. I also say that if Canada is not willing to give greater attention to the fishing industry in British Columbia, Quebec, the Maritime provinces and Newfoundland, if the Department of External Affairs is not willing to take more action than it has recently, the present difficulties will be minor compared with the unrest we will witness in Canada in our maritime areas in years to come.

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, to the extent that the announcement by the minister this morning indicates the government's intention to take certain specific action, it is welcome. But as I listened to the minister I could not help but be reminded of how, month after month, indeed, year after year following the passage of the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act in 1964, we received bland and wordy assurances from the former Secretary of State for External Affairs that action was imminent as a result of that measure. We waited in vain despite the pleadings, efforts and proddings that some of us on this side of the House engaged in.

There is a distinct contrast as far as the present Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) is concerned. Whether he is wise in this matter I do not know, but the impression he has successfully created in the House is that far from being wordy on this subject he is struck dumb whenever the question of action on fishing matters is raised. These questions are left to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis). We cannot accuse the present Secretary of State for External Affairs of having held out any false hopes.

There is one particular point I should like to underline in respect of the statement of the minister. As a member who comes from the opposite edge of Canada from that of the hon. member who has just spoken, I agree with the statement of the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry as to the importance of this matter to a very large segment of Canadian workers. Certainly the fishermen on the west coast of Vancouver Island, who are faced with the imminent loss of their livelihood as a result of the encroachment of foreign fishing fleets, understand what this is all about. I plead with those members who come from other parts of the country to try to understand what this is all about, and to recognize that the fishermen who go out on the seas are in a rather peculiar position because they have not got the same control over the resource from which they derive their livelihood as other people have in different types of employment.

If hon. members who represent the Prairie provinces were suddenly to find their agricultural land being taken over by immigrants, without any action being taken by the immigration authorities, I suggest they would be in a situation parallel to that which has developed on the Atlantic coast of Canada and has become more and more obvious in recent years. Therefore I urge hon. members to support the action taken so far. Indeed, I urge the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry and the Secretary of State for External Affairs to expedite further necessary action.

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

The minister has talked about a phasing out period. Realistically we cannot quarrel too much with the suggestion that this approach be taken. But it does underline the inadequacies in many respects of the fishing zones concept as we have developed it for the protection of fishing resources generally which are important to the Canadian economy, and also the need to co-operate as much as possible with other countries.

I regret that the minister gave us no indication in his statement as to what the government has in mind in respect of phasing out foreign activity outside the 12-mile territorial sea in the Gulf of St. Lawrence fishing zone. I hope there will be something forthcoming on this in the not too distant future.

The encroachment of foreign fishing vessels in territories from which the larger Canadian fishing vessels have been excluded has been a knotty and aggravating problem on the Atlantic coast for many years. I welcome the fact that the minister is going to require foreign fishing vessels to observe the same regulations Canadians have to observe.

All I can say in concluding is that I recognize that the problem on the Atlantic coast is much more complicated than that on the Pacific coast because of the fact that many nations over the centuries have established claims to fishing rights close to our shores. I hope this action by the minister will serve notice that we do not want nations attempting to establish historic rights or claims off the Pacific coast of Canada.

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OIL

TAPS PROJECT—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I want to move a proposed motion under Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. I propose to ask the unanimous consent of the House to put this motion.

The Canadian nation is daily becoming increasingly concerned over the conflicting claims of our industries for energy and the need to protect our environment. The government, which should be providing leadership and direction to Canada on this issue, is divided. Instead we have all around us conflicting voices.

The United States has already stockpiled pipe to build the pipeline from the Alaskan slopes to the port of Valdez for the transportation of crude petroleum. There is still no government decision to implement policies to prevent the pollution of the sea and our environment. A large oil spill on the west coast, and one will occur, arising from a tanker which was involved in an accident could permanently destroy the life of our coastal regions and cause grave economic hardships to our people.

At the same time there are understandable needs by the United States to develop their oil reserves and trans-