

The Address—Mr. Crouse

• (3:40 p.m.)

In order to make it possible for these lobster fishermen to continue immediately in the lobster fishing industry following a heavy trap loss, I wish to propose the establishment of at least four major lobster trap depots in Nova Scotia. One of these depots could be located in the Yarmouth area, another on the south shore in Queens or Lunenburg counties, another on the eastern shore between Halifax and Guysborough and a fourth in the Pictou area. Each depot would carry a stock of at least 6,000 lobster traps, and in times of disaster lobster fishermen could draw upon these pools for new supplies. These wooden traps could be made by shore fishermen during the closed season; and since each trap is valued at approximately \$7, the total cost of 24,000 traps held in reserve would amount to \$168,000 plus the cost of four storage sheds.

The cost of this project could well be borne by the Atlantic Development Board in support of one of our major inshore industries. It is an idea that could well be applied not only to the lobster fishermen of Nova Scotia but to all lobster fishermen in any one of the four Atlantic provinces. Once established the stock of pots could be maintained by the lobster fishermen.

When the loss is sustained, three quarters of the loss is generally covered by lobster trap insurance, which the fishermen could sign over to the administrating authority in payment for the traps obtained, or they could replace the traps by constructing them when the season closed. The design of traps varies in different areas, but the design to be stocked could be worked out with the fishermen concerned. I hope some action is taken on this proposal, which I believe would be beneficial to many of Nova Scotia's lobster fishermen.

While I am on the subject of fishing, I would refer to the recent news release put out by the Department of Transport concerning the loss of the trawler *Cape Bonnie* which was believed due to a navigational error. This tragic event will long be remembered by the people of Nova Scotia. It would appear the report of the accident as prepared by the officials of the transport department is factual and complete. However, the report does state that the Decca navigator chain which serves the area did produce an unreliable signal for a period of time, and if the captain of the *Cape Bonnie* was depending on his Decca navigator entirely and took a reading during the period the signal was unreliable, it may

[Mr. Crouse.]

well have caused him to set the wrong course for Halifax harbour.

In the light of accidents which have occurred in the area of Halifax harbour in recent months, it is my opinion—one that is endorsed by many mariners—that in the interests of protecting the lives of our seamen the government should give favourable consideration to returning the *Sambro* lightship to its regular station. I believe a lightship was on station in the area for some 52 years, and with the strong signals sent out by this ship there was no question in the minds of our mariners about their proper location.

Since we hope and believe that Halifax will become the Nova Scotia terminal for giant bulk cargo vessels in the not too distant future, and we want to encourage as many deep-water ships as possible to call at our capital city's port, I believe maximum assistance in navigational aids should be provided them when approaching the harbour. For these reasons, and for many others I could cite, I hope the government will take early action to see that the *Sambro* or a similar ship is put back on the job.

Another development which should be studied and supported by the Atlantic Development Board is the proposed construction of a corridor road through Maine. This is not a new proposal, but I ask the government what progress is being made in discussions with our American friends on this important trade and tourist route, which would shorten the distance between the maritimes and central Canadian marketing areas by approximately 140 miles.

Reference to the speech from the throne, Mr. Speaker, reveals the following paragraph, to be found at page 3 of *Hansard*:

Parliament will also be asked to enact a measure further to assist Canadians when moving from their homes in order to obtain employment.

Shades of the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Gordon). We in the maritime provinces have heard this old chestnut ever since the hon. member produced his report on our economic prospects. This has become a standing joke in our area. We would like him to know—and I think I am speaking for all maritimers when I say this—that we want to stay in the Atlantic provinces. We feel that, given the right opportunities, we can build our part of Canada equal to any other part of this nation. We do not want a one-way ticket to some other part of Canada, and we resent this intimation that we do.