

*N.W. Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act*

day fishermen use large cod traps, about the size of this chamber. These are sunk in the Atlantic ocean. There are particular methods of allowing fish to get into these traps. Great boatloads of cod were harvested that way. Cod was in plentiful supply in every little cove around Newfoundland.

Our forefathers, the original inhabitants of what is now Canada, sailed from the island of Newfoundland to Labrador where they did one of two things. Some settled in the small coves, bays or inlets on the Labrador coast. They went out in their small boats with their cod traps and harvested great quantities of fish. Others would remain on their larger vessels or schooners, 100 to 200 feet in length, and spend the summer on their boats using cod traps. They would process their product on board the vessel.

Perhaps the minister is not aware that Newfoundlanders used to travel to Labrador in great fleets of schooners long before Russia was known as a fishing nation. There are great communities in my constituency, such as Greenspond, the home of the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Carter). Before the schooners left the harbours of these communities in the spring to go to Labrador, their masts looked like a great forest of timber as they stood at mooring. The minister knows what I am talking about. I am referring to the masts used for their sails. It was possible to walk across the decks of the schooners in the harbours at Bonavista Bay and Notre Dame Bay, the home of the great schooner builders and captains. All these harbours were literally filled with schooners. Under the guidance of the captain, homespun in their home town, the members of the various communities boarded these vessels to sail to Labrador to reap the benefits of the great fishery there. The Labrador fishery was so plentiful that traps placed in little coves or inlets were filled with great, beautiful black cod. These cod are now declining. This is the history of our fishery.

In recent years we adopted new technology: we became more involved in gill netting and dragging operations with longliners, boats approximately 65 feet in length. The operation of draggers is a very important part of technology. We are not very far advanced toward other stages of fisheries. It certainly cannot be said that our traditional fishery was not competitive with that of other nations. As a matter of fact, we were the vanguard of fisheries in the world 20 years ago as far as Canadian waters were concerned.

I wish to deal with events since 1949 when Newfoundland became part of Canada. As the minister stated, this was the same year that the International Commission for the North Atlantic Fishery came into existence. That board now has 15 members from Scandinavian, Iberian and western Europe countries as well as the United States and Canada. These countries' representatives have been making recommendations in the hope of controlling the harvesting of marine resources in order that we will have a sustainable yield of our marine resources. The board has been meeting since 1949. The number of members has been increased. This commission made annual

reports, all of which recommended certain managerial procedures to be adopted by the member countries.

Another type of activity was manifested in a number of Law of the Sea conferences, the most important of which was at Geneva in 1958. At that conference international agreements were reached among nations which had a particular interest in the seas. There is a particular name for these nations; they are called maritime nations. In 1958 these nations agreed there should be a definite responsibility on the part of nations which were taking resources from the sea, to manage the resources. To use Canada as an example, there should be a definite responsibility on the part of Canada to enforce managerial control and conservation measures in the waters adjacent to its territorial sea in the event that we should not reach international agreement for such conservation measures. I think I am quoting the article correctly. I believe it is article 14.

In any event, the articles of the 1958 agreement stated that Canada could unilaterally impose conservation measures, quotas, closing areas, limits of technology, such as the number of ships and gear, and the like on the continental shelf, which extends 400 miles off our shore, if Canada could not reach international agreement with the nations that harvest our resources. This is an international agreement. I think it was unanimously agreed to at the Law of the Sea Conference in 1958.

Another date of particular note is 1964, when the then Prime Minister of Canada launched his great Magna Carta for the development of Canadian fisheries Canada and the protection of our marine resources. He promised Canadians that we would impose a 12-mile limit as the first step toward conserving our resources. Another noteworthy date was reached in 1970. Canada met with the U.S.S.R. as a result of tremendous political pressure regarding incidents on our west coast involving collisions between Russian ships and our fishing schooners or vessels. Because of tremendous political pressure in the minister's constituency and elsewhere on the west coast of Canada, representatives of the U.S.S.R., British Columbia and the federal government reached certain agreements about the Russians fishing offshore and using west coast ports.

In 1971 another event deserves note. Approximately 60 foreign vessels were inside our three-mile limit off the southwest coast of Newfoundland. This occurred only a few weeks ago. The Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) decided to impose a 12-mile limit on all vessels, including Canadian, on a very small portion of the southwest and west coasts of Newfoundland. This was the first response to the promise made by the Pearson government in 1964. The history of this particular problem goes back 22 years, ever since ICNAF and Law of the Sea conferences have been making recommendations. The response to this by the present government and previous governments has been puny and ineffective. For example, the minister stated that we have had the imposition of quotas on George's Bank. As a matter of fact, the fishing of haddock is not permitted by any nation at the present time.

[Mr. Lundrigan.]