

which Senator McLean has so ably introduced, for the benefit of the fishermen and their livelihood.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Donald Smith: Honourable senators, the hour is getting late, and I give you an undertaking that I shall not be long. I want to say something about this bill and to express my agreement in general with something Senator Hollett said a few moments ago.

Senator Hollett gave the impression that in his part of the country loans under this act are not very easily accessible to a fisherman. I believe that I can say the same thing for the fishermen in that part of Nova Scotia which I know best. This is something which Senator Carter, long before he came to this chamber and indeed, since he has been here, has been talking about. He has made some extremely pertinent statements on the subject in committee when consideration was being given to various measures dealing with the Fisheries Act.

There ought to be some better way to service the fishermen of Newfoundland. Banks are not available to the fishermen in the out-ports to the same extent that they are in other parts of the country. It is not only because banks are not available to the people. In the Province of Nova Scotia they have not taken advantage of this act. I think it is mainly due to the fact that the bank managers and the banks themselves have not been too enthusiastic about committing bank loans to the fishermen. One of the reasons is quite obvious: fishing is a very hazardous occupation. Unless the boat that is fitted out with gear through money borrowed from a bank is insured almost to its full value, it is very difficult for that fisherman to get a loan. It is difficult for him to get it because it is very expensive, and it is becoming more so all the time. This is due to the increasing hazards at sea. The experience of insurance companies has resulted in the raising of the rates quite considerably.

We have had on the federal statutes for some years a program of insuring gear and boats. I think it is entitled The Fishermen's Indemnity Act. It is not intended to take the place of private insurance companies, and therefore has not been of much help to the fishermen.

I do not see much assistance in raising the total amount available to any one borrower—

from its original amount back in 1955 of \$4,000, at which it remained for a good many years, until now when we are raising it to \$25,000—if the fisherman cannot get loans from the banks and the co-operative societies which offer loans, because they are in a high-risk category, and their loans cannot be secured against the piece of real estate or the chattel which cannot be insured to its full value.

I have been informed that only recently the Minister of Fisheries has been giving consideration to several things which might improve the situation. This has little, if any, application to this particular act, and I just mention it in passing to express the hope that his proposals will bear fruit. This is to devise something whereby federal loans can be made to the fishermen along the same lines as direct loans to other borrowers in other categories in the country.

The other step which I think he has already taken is that the Fishermen's Indemnity Act will be reviewed so that a higher amount of insurance at a much lower rate than the commercial rate can be made available in order that fishermen can extend their insurance coverage. That will take a lot of the financial risk out of the business of fishing, even if it is not possible to remove the danger to their lives—which was pointed out so well by Senator Burchill—in that very difficult vocation which by force of circumstances they are compelled to pursue.

Honourable senators, in conclusion, may I express my appreciation of the very clear and able manner in which the sponsor of the bill explained it.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On motion of Hon. Mr. McLean, bill referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce.

TELESAT CANADA BILL

SECOND READING—DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. Paul Desruisseaux moved the second reading of Bill C-184, to establish a Canadian corporation for telecommunication by satellite.

He said: Honourable senators, before I commence my presentation on this bill, I have to ask a question. It was not possible for me to address the Senate on Tuesday last because of the lateness of the hour. My