

Supply—Fisheries

position of diminishing return. They are just as interested or perhaps more interested in the continuity of this industry than many others across the country, and they are not going to go out on a limb and advocate policies which are going to work against the continuation of this industry. They would be very foolish to do so, and I do not think they can be branded with that charge.

However, they are very concerned about the programs of conservation which have been carried on, and some of the actions which have been based upon this principle. In this connection we think of the renegotiations of the treaty which are going on or have been going on in Tokyo and which will be continued later on. The fishermen's unions have made representations on this behalf and they are very concerned, first of all with the fact that the recommendations of the commission were accepted and put into operation, apparently without their having an opportunity to voice their strong opposition to the situation, and second, because it opened the door for further demands on the part of Japan for additional concessions. Their fear is that bit by bit, piece by piece, the rights of the Canadian fishermen and the interests of the Canadian industry will be sacrificed and they will end up with nothing at all. That is why they are so opposed to some of the actions of the minister and his department in this connection.

I was going to refer to the leaflet put out by the united fishermen and allied workers union under date January 25, 1963, but this goes into detail on a number of very important aspects of the fishing industry and also deals with the north Pacific treaty and the insistence of the Japanese that the abstention principle be deleted from the treaty. They have, of course, voiced their strong objection to anything along this line. Recently, in answer to questions, the minister made a statement, on motions I believe, dealing with the negotiations which were carried on in Tokyo. He assured us that the Canadian delegation was standing firm as far as the principle of abstention was concerned. He thought there might be a different way of expressing it. I pointed out at that time that we are not too concerned perhaps with the way it is expressed, but we are certainly concerned that the abstention principle should be incorporated in the treaty in the course of these renegotiations.

Also with regard to conservation I should like to refer to the closure regulations as they affect the Fraser river and other areas of British Columbia. The minister is aware that just at the time he was leaving for Tokyo a meeting was held by the fishermen in

[Mr. Patterson.]

Steveston. There were several hundred fishermen gathered there to make representations in connection with the north Pacific treaty, and they also met in a special way to deal with the closures imposed on the Fraser river, which was one of the main concerns at that time. There was a feeling that the method by which the closures were implemented was most unfair. Let me say again that they were not opposing the principle of conservation. They recognize that it is essential to the welfare of the whole industry. But the fishermen of the Fraser river, especially, felt they were being discriminated against because, for them, they faced what amounted to a total closure of the river. It is true it was opened up one day a week but I think there were some weeks when no fishing at all was allowed. Meanwhile, those who fished off the coast enjoyed almost unlimited freedom; they were allowed to fish several days a week.

The fishermen of the Fraser valley had a legitimate complaint. They were almost completely barred from engaging in fishing in their own areas. They were not equipped to fish off the coast; their boats and gear would not permit them to go so far. So here were men who depended on fishing for a living, yet could not take advantage of the fishing in the Fraser river basin for themselves and their families. A serious endeavour should be made to see that fishermen in every area have an opportunity to share in the resources to the conservation of which they have contributed. It may be that the conference which is to be held will lead to the solution of some of these problems. Perhaps it will lead to better relations between the fishermen, the industry in general and the government at various levels. As I say, I believe this is one of the important resources of the nation and one which makes a substantial contribution to the economic welfare, not only of those directly concerned but of Canada from coast to coast.

[Translation]

Mr. Cyr: Mr. Chairman, I feel bound to express in this house the views of the inshore fishermen of the Gaspé peninsula and to deal with two matters pertaining to fisheries. First of all, the establishment of fishing limits for trawlers, as well as international limits, and then, the report of the committee of inquiry on the Unemployment Insurance Act, and the recommendations of the same committee with regard to fisheries.

Mr. Chairman, in the last few years, the inshore fishermen of the gulf of St. Lawrence and of part of the Baie des Chaleurs have been at war with trawlers which, apart from plundering the inshore fishing territories usually reserved to fishermen who go in for fishing on a small scale, damage fishing