

Supply—Fisheries

the territorial sea and fishing zones of Canada and a 12-mile fishing limit off our shores.

It was on May 20, 1964, that the Secretary of State for External Affairs moved second reading of Bill S-17 respecting the territorial sea and fishing zones of Canada, and it is interesting to note what he had to say at that time. These are his words as reported at page 3409 of *Hansard* for that year:

First, the bill establishes the fishing zones of Canada at 12 miles from the Coast line. When it is passed by parliament and proclaimed, Canada will have a fishing zone in the 3 to 12-mile area off our coast line. This, in the view of the government, is a fundamental achievement of the bill. It is not enabling legislation in this respect. On proclamation, the 12-mile fishing zone will be established. I must emphasize there is no doubt, and there can be no doubt, about this point.

Canada has never published official charts showing the present base lines, but for at least parts of our coast the base lines follow the sinuosities of the shore. Pending the establishment of straight base lines, the fishing zones will be measured from the existing ones. This is clearly provided for in the bill.

The second important purpose of the bill is to apply the straight base line system to the Canadian coast line. This part of it, unlike the section concerning fishing zones, will be of an enabling character. When the bill comes into effect the Governor in Council will be authorized to draw straight base lines. The question may be asked: what does this achieve? In response, I would say that what the bill accomplishes is of great significance. It makes applicable the straight base line system to the Canadian coast. These straight base lines will be drawn in accordance with international law, on the basis of the decision of the International Court of Justice in the Anglo-Norwegian fisheries case and of the Geneva convention on the territorial sea and fishing zones and taking into account Canadian historic interests in the bodies of water off our coasts.

Speaking on May 10, 1966, in Halifax at the 21st annual meeting of the Fisheries Council of Canada, this is what the Minister of Fisheries had to say about the 12-mile limit. I quote from a report which appeared in the press:

Canada is enforcing a 12-mile fishing limit—although not against all foreign fleets—and implementation of the new boundary “has resulted in added protection for our Canadian fisheries”, Fisheries Minister H. J. Robichaud said yesterday. He was speaking at the 21st annual meeting of the Fisheries Council of Canada.

The 12-mile limit is just one of a host of measures his department has implemented or plans in an effort to increase Canada's fishing catch, protect stocks and re-gear the \$300 million a year industry for revolutionary changes being brought about by research, the minister said.

However, when I questioned the Minister of Fisheries in committee about the progress which had been made in negotiations over the 12-mile limit and asked him to name the

countries which were still fishing up to three miles from our coast line, he named the following countries, including some of the largest fishing nations in the world: France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Norway, Denmark, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

When we ask why the government has not enforced the 12-mile limit in pursuance of its unilateral action taken in July, 1964, the minister tells us that negotiations are continuing with those countries which engage in fishing operations off Canadian coasts but that they have proved to be difficult and long drawn out. The minister has never told us, however, what it is that concerns these various countries or what their objections are to this legislation. Why the secrecy?

When Bill S-17 was introduced the Conservative opposition made it clear to the government that they were opposed to a gunboat policy and that in their opinion the problem of fishing limits and territorial seas could never be settled by unilateral action but should be solved at the international conference table. I still hold this viewpoint because the number of countries involved make this an international problem. Of course, Mr. Chairman, this is exactly the process that is being followed at present, according to the minister's announcement today. We are told that more proposals have been made to the United States recently, and we are still waiting for a response that we trust will enable us to make progress on the establishment of a straight base line system.

● (2:50 p.m.)

I would like to know what proposals were made to the United States, and what about the seven other large fishing countries that still fish up to three miles off our coasts? What proposals have been submitted to them? It seems to me that Bill S-17, in the form of enabling legislation as brought forth in July, 1964, is nothing but a hoax to date from the standpoint of Canadian fishermen. It was widely promised by leading speakers of the Liberal party in the Atlantic provinces in the election of 1963 and hailed as a *fait accompli* in the election of 1965.

However, we only have to read the first resolution arising from the 21st annual meeting of the Fisheries Council of Canada, who act as spokesman for the industry and for the fishermen, to know that the fishermen have