

If there is need for immediate action, then I think we could do what the American Congress does. When it has need for immediate action and it does not have agreement among legislators about what the action will be, members get together to formulate an agreement. They have a conference. Perhaps this is the time to have a conference. This Government promises co-operative government. It promises consultation. It intends to be open. If we need immediate action, we would be prepared in this Party to sit down immediately and talk about what plan this Government has in mind for the fisheries and get it all spelled out. Therefore, when the Government comes before this House seeking authority, the authority is defined, limited and accountable and the people in the fishery will know what kind of Government regulation they will have to face. They will know whether they will be able to make a living, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We shall now resume debate. The period of questions and comments has terminated. The Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo).

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, we are talking today about one of the primary industries in this country. Within that category it is very important that we have the kind of legislation that allows those primary industries to develop in a way that the people who work in those industries want it to develop. It is important, therefore, that the Government take the kind of responsibility which allows it to put in place a structure which will not allow these industries to degenerate and to become less effective and less productive.

The industries I am talking about include the farm industry, the forest industry, and the fishing industry. I suppose one could throw the mining industry in there too as a primary production industry, except that the mining industry deals with a non-renewable resource. The other three can be considered to be producing products from resources that are renewable, although I am sure I would get into a considerable amount of argument with a number of people about the renewability of farm land. Basically what we are talking about here are primary industries and the kind of legislation that we need in place to make sure that the primary industries can produce the way they want to produce.

We have a case for concern. I know we are talking specifically about the fisheries, but we have a case for concern. Under the responsibility of the Liberal Government, which has been our Government for the past 16 to 20 years, it has allowed the degeneration of these primary industries in such a way that we are now faced with considerable amounts of trouble in each industry.

The farming industry is having trouble, the forest industry is having trouble, and today we have been talking about the fisheries and its trouble. It has become a kind of ongoing feeling on the part of these communities, the farming, the fishing and forest communities, to recognize that they are a long way from Ottawa, that Ottawa is pretty insensitive to their basic problems, and that they cannot expect the kind of

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legislation and understanding from Ottawa that would be relative to their importance in Canada's economy.

I think it is important to note that farming and fishing particularly are industries which are carried on in most cases by families and by whole communities. If we are going to keep the kind of traditional independence on the part of communities and families, we should make it possible, as far as we can, for these industries to be kept producing, allowing them to increase production and making them viable once more as part of the economy of Canada. That is something we have lost over the last two years. We have lost the primary industries as part of the viable structure of the economy of Canada.

We are talking today about the fisheries industry, which is not a minor industry. It could be a much greater industry. It is not a minor industry because if you take the structure of it, it has provided well over 100,000 direct jobs across the nation for fishers and plant workers and the other people who work in and around the fishing industry. These people produce 1.3 million tonnes of fish in 1983, valued at \$874 million. Aside from those figures, they have derived products valued at \$2.1 billion and an export value of \$1.6 billion. We are not talking about a small industry or about a very few people. On both coasts of Canada there are fishing fleets comprised of 42,000 private fishing crafts.

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Let us take a look at the particular communities affected, in particular in Newfoundland and along the East Coast. There are 1,300 communities which are entirely dependent upon the fishing industry. Consequently, we should have legislation in place which protects that industry as much as possible. The industry on the West Coast may not be as large. There are not as many communities directly affected by it. However there are 17,000 commercial fishers and approximately 500,000 people who are sports or recreational fishers. They provide a lot of indirect employment to people in the tourist industry. It is very important that what we discuss in the House in terms of the fishing industry take into account what is good for the industry, for the people and for the survival of the fishery.

The reason this Bill is before us is that the previous Government did a bad job in terms of husbandry in the fishery over the years. Consequently there is a shortage of fish and a problem with allocation of the fisheries. We needed this Bill to provide the Minister with what he thought was a proper amount of control. To a certain extent we agree, but we differ on the kind of control and who should have it. This is why we are suggesting a number of changes before the Bill goes to committee.

The Bill itself contains a number of very beautiful words. Aside from conservation and protection of fish and the waters frequented by fish, the purpose of the Act is "to provide for the proper management, allocation and control of the seacoast fisheries of Canada; to ensure a continuing supply of fish and to maintain and develop the economic and social benefits from the use of fish to fishermen and others employed in the Canadian seacoast fishing industry, to others whose livelihood