

Supply—Fisheries

University of Manitoba, and we are now planning construction of permanent housing, also to be located on the University of Manitoba campus.

Earlier I mentioned that the Fisheries Research Board has been engaged in an assessment of trends that may be expected in the foreseeable future. One of the areas in which, failing appropriate action, problems could occur is that of recruitment of scientists in fisheries research. More and more, graduates with the background and desire for careers in research are the objects of intense competition from industry and other sources. To ensure that high calibre research talent can continue to be attracted to fisheries disciplines the board has embarked on a new program involving closer ties with the universities and the construction of laboratories on university campuses where this is feasible and practicable.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I wish to commend the co-operation, devotion and good work of the officers of the Department of Fisheries and of the officials of the Fisheries Research Board.

• (12:20 p.m.)

Mr. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Chairman, I think the members of the committee would wish me, on their behalf, to thank the minister for his statement, especially in view of rumours to the effect that it probably will be the last time he will be presenting to the house the main estimates of the Department of Fisheries.

The situation is this. The estimates of the Department of Fisheries were entered in committee of supply on March 22, and referred on that date to the standing committee on fisheries. They were reported back to the house on June 13, and in the intervening 11 weeks or so were thoroughly examined by the standing committee on fisheries. During the course of the committee's meetings detailed explanations were given by officials of the department who were examined, and by the minister. In the light of that fact it is the intention of the official opposition to exercise great restraint so far as debate on the first item is concerned. Nevertheless I should like to point out that the examination which took place before the standing committee on fisheries is now completely out of date.

In the rapidly changing fisheries industry many things have taken place in the intervening months. New problems have arisen, old ones have become more acute, and events have occurred which might be of special

interest to this committee. The minister has reviewed some of them. Many of the important problems with regard to the fishing industry in Canada are world wide problems. One of the most important in our case is the development of a more modern and expanded offshore fishing industry. There has been an enormously increased investment in the form of equipment and ships by foreign countries for the exploitation of the fishery resource of both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans in areas fairly close to our coasts. This, of course, indicates that Canada must accelerate development in this field, so long as it is done on a logical and sound economic basis, with careful note taken of the effect that such a development may have on our traditional fisheries.

This brings me to the very important question of the law of the sea and developments which may have taken place in that regard in the last few months. It requires great restraint to refrain from indulging in debate on this very important question concerning Canada's policy in this regard. There is the question of negotiation with other countries concerning the establishment of an exclusive 12-mile fishing zone along our coast and the inclusion, within base lines, of certain bodies of water so they would be national waters and thereby excluded from the fisheries fleets of other nations.

There is another very important problem in international law with regard to fisheries; that is, the problem of conservation of the resources of the sea and the optimum exploitation of those resources on a continuing basis by the various nations of the world in a fair and equitable manner. So far as our own industry is concerned there is the problem of developing the industry in areas where the economic stimulation for an automatic increase is not great enough on the one hand, and the problem of prevention of over-exploitation in areas where the economic rewards are quite high, on the other hand.

In the latter case the salmon fishery on the west coast and the lobster fishery on the east coast are good examples. For years the resource has been protected by limiting the fishing seasons in respect of these particular stocks. There is however, the other problem of limiting the effort expended by fishermen during these open seasons so they will not require a disproportionate amount of gear and will not expend a disproportionate amount of effort in trying to catch a limited stock.