

The Address—Mr. Lundrigan

such abundance that there was no possibility of its becoming extinct. In 1970, it is estimated that 30 per cent of the processed fish will be cod. This gives a dramatic indication of the situation in the cod fishery especially when one remembers it was possible to catch a basketful by dropping a basket over the side of the boat.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Does the House agree that the hon. member be permitted to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I should like to express my appreciation to hon. members for being permitted to continue for a few moments. I was speaking of the international fishery. In 1958, the International Conference on the Law of the Sea reached agreement that a coastal state, which Canada is, had the right to unilaterally impose a measure of management and conservation in the seas adjacent to its territorial seas six months after failing to receive international agreement on conservation measures.

I hope I have made myself clear. In 1958, the International Conference on the Law of the Sea said to Canada that it could unilaterally impose measures in respect of the waters adjacent to its territorial seas, which by definition means the continental shelf, if it could not reach international agreement. We do not even go that far in our plea: we merely ask that Canada take the lead in attempting to obtain international agreement. We can worry about what moves we make after that, because I understand that nations, including the Soviet Union, are very concerned about the amount of capital investment in fisheries and their productivity, which is about one-quarter of what it was five years ago even though the average effort is twice what it was five years ago.

The cod catch in the Newfoundland fishery this year will be 25 per cent less than what it was two years ago. So, Mr. Speaker, I plead with the members of this House and the government of Canada to immediately convene an international conference of the fisheries of Canada which would not get bogged down in matters of pollution, military weapons' discharge, the rights of nations in the air above the seas, oil exploration and all the other ramifications of Law of the Sea conferences.

I am asking that Canada take the initiative in respect of a conference on the Law of the Sea to see whether a little encouragement can be given to British Columbia, eastern Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland—provinces directly affected by the imminent danger of depletion of our great fisheries resources. As a Canadian, I do not think this is too much to ask. Perhaps this plea will fall on deaf ears. If it should fall on deaf ears, the government of this nation will have to assume a great deal of responsibility for the further deterioration of law and order in this country.

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

I wish now to deviate from the subject of fisheries and proceed to another aspect of our economy. As an educator, I believe it is time Canada got off its constitutional high-horse and started paying attention to educational problems, in Canada. I believe the time has come when education must be considered more than a provincial problem. It can remain a provincial responsibility so far as curricula and the basic aims and objectives of our educational systems are concerned. But the government of Canada should take the initiative in becoming involved in the business of developing human resources in all parts of Canada.

In a day and age when there is great mobility of people in Canada, it is time we had more unification in our educational system throughout the nation. I am not speaking of curricula. One of my fundamental beliefs is that Canada must reform its manpower policy in particular, to see what we can do in respect of tens of thousands of Canadians who have reached middle-age and upper middle-age and are in the position where they have no prospects for the future.

I would be the first to admit that I have no answer, but I believe there should be a tremendous review of our manpower policy. In my province there are thousands of people who have never had the opportunity to gain an education. I am sure other hon. members have the same situation in their areas. Many people had to leave school at an early age. A favourite expression in my province is that they were dragged out of school and put in a fishing boat. In our Newfoundland culture the language sometimes is a lot richer than that which I have just used.

People who have had little schooling deserve consideration. I imagine there are many such people in the province of Quebec. I have only studied the situation in Quebec, having been there only 15 or 20 times. Therefore, I cannot pretend to have any knowledge of the situation there. But I imagine that Quebec, with its large rural community outside Montreal, has a tremendous number of men who have never had a chance to receive much education and who are out of tune with the technological society in which we are living.

• (5:30 p.m.)

It seems to me that the trade schools which are available today to some people who leave high school are not adequate to teach them to deal with the kinds of problems to which we have been referring. There have been situations this year in Canada—I will not be parochial by mentioning Newfoundland only—where out of hundreds of people who have applied to enter trade schools, only some have been accepted. I am referring to a situation where 700 people applied and only 200 openings were available. As a consequence, those who got in were high school graduates. Therefore, the people I am referring to, many of whom have only grade 4 or 5 education, or even less, have had no chance. Unless we are prepared to retire Canadians at the age of 45, we should assume some responsibility for trying to make their lives constructive, which I am sure is their aspiration.