

*Supply—Fisheries and Forestry*

to death, and all we have heard from hon. members who have spoken on the government side today, and all we have heard since we have been old enough to understand English or French, is that something will be done soon.

The minister told us today that we are on the edge of something. He told us that prices are down but that costs are up. This is his answer to the trade. During an emergency situation the minister sent a telegram to the industry in which he asked this of it:

Please do not count on any new program of government assistance being put into effect before the end of the federal government's current fiscal year which is March 31st, 1969.

He further indicated today that if markets improved all will be well and good, and that if they do not the industry is going to have to improve its productivity, its cost arrangements and its expenditures in order to become self-sufficient. This is similar to what the minister said in Boston. He indicated that we need a long term plan, a new bright program and a new program of action.

Let me say to the hon. member for Comox-Alberni that if I had the time I should like to develop this. In the meantime let me quote from a statement made in 1964 in which the then minister of fisheries, Mr. Robichaud, told the Canadian people that the federal government was going to come up with a Magna Carta for the fisheries industry. King John would have been proud of this action in 1964. This statement was quoted all across Canada. We were going to have a new Magna Carta for the Canadian fisheries industry. If I had the time to quote in detail I would be able to make the same kind of speech the Minister of Fisheries made to the house today. In any event, in 1964, the then minister of fisheries said that the resources in Canada's inland waters and neighbouring seas can support a great long-term expansion of the fishing industry. He indicated that the future for fishermen is bright, and went on to say, not facetiously, that there must also be a progressive program which will take into account our sports fishery. That was said in 1964, after the minister had met with all the provincial ministers.

This report of the ministers' conference was tabled in Ottawa on January 24, 1965, and it states in part:

The conference stressed the importance of effective long-term planning to provide adequate harbours marine works and navigational aids to meet the changing needs of the inshore and offshore fisheries.

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I wish I had the time to quote the entire statement by the then minister of fisheries, and compare it with what the present Minister of Fisheries said today. Today we heard the minister define these problems. He presented us with a lecture. If talk could solve our problems we would be making the greatest progress ever made in the history of Canada, and perhaps I should say that I am sorry I feel I should add my two cents to this matter.

**An hon. Member:** Could the hon. member say whether the then minister of fisheries was referring to a long term plan to assist in marketing problems?

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Let me recommend to hon. members, especially on the back benches, that they read the results of this conference in 1964. It was a long and great conference of ministers of the various provinces. Even the premier of Newfoundland was present, and this was the statement that resulted from that conference. It was referred to in the former prime minister's statement to an hon. member for Newfoundland.

I do not think we can hold the minister responsible for the attitude of the Newfoundland government, which is responsible for many of the difficulties of the fishing industry today. Nor can we hold him responsible for the government's attitude in respect of foreign aid, but a little stimulation in this regard would alleviate this problem to some extent.

The fishing industry in Canada has been treated as the poor stepchild of the Canadian economy. This is the reason for the extreme difficulties we find ourselves in right now. We cannot hold the government responsible for the non-productivity or the sometimes questionable attitude of merchants, and I use that word deliberately. We cannot hold the minister responsible for those non-productive attitudes of fishermen. Neither can we hold him responsible for the lack of diversification in the industry. However, we can hold this government and this minister responsible for not taking issue with the present attitude of this government toward the United States government, because I think in Canada we are going to have to set up a trade relationships and prices support board in order to solve our problems, and to come to grips with the United States in respect of our fishing industry. This would allow us to call the shots so far as this industry is concerned. However, the federal government does not seem to give a damn about these things. I hope you will