

Supply—Fisheries and Forestry

effect in 1969. I should like to quote the following from an editorial which appeared in one of the west coast newspapers:

It takes considerable political courage for a cabinet minister to stride into the middle of a complex and artificially structured industry and arbitrarily establish rules that will reshape that industry's future.

Our fisheries minister has done just that by making his decision to limit the number of boats in the B.C. salmon fishing industry. For this he should be commended and applauded. With regard to that quotation I may say that I take exception to the word "arbitrarily" as a description of how our minister made his decision with regard to licence limitations, because government studies such as Dr. Sinclair's royal commission of eight years ago, and briefs from both fishermen's organizations and industry groups, have recommended and suggested some type of licence limitations.

As I see it, licence limitations will not be the panacea to the problems of the west coast fisheries because I firmly believe there is no panacea to any problems. I feel however that some hon. members opposite think that all you need do is wave a wand and there will be a resolution of any problem you wish to present them with. There are however some distinct advantages to licence limitations. First of all it removes the casual fishermen or the moonlighters as they have been referred to this afternoon. I think it is a step in the right direction. Second, productivity in the fishery has been decreasing at an alarming rate in recent years. It has been costing far more money to catch the same number of fish. As a result of licence limitations I feel that the efficiency of a reduced fleet should improve our productivity. I believe that conservation should be enhanced and fishermen's earnings be increased. I think that boat values will certainly be increased, and as a result of all these advantages I hope that in time lower consumer prices will result.

There are, however, some disadvantages to licence limitations which have already been drawn to the minister's attention. One of them is the loss of vessels at sea. I understand that an appeal board has been established to which anyone who loses his vessel at sea can make an application. I am personally concerned about the fact that there is a real possibility that the companies will take control of salmon fishing vessels on the west coast. I am confident that our minister is aware of this likelihood and that he will guard against it carefully. There are those

who would have advocated licensing fishermen rather than vessels. Naturally, the unions take this view because they would like to take control. I agree with the present move to license vessels, but I think we should be aware of the danger of the companies taking control. I ask that our minister keep a very close eye on this possibility, as I am sure he will.

• (4:50 p.m.)

I should like to say a few words about our first Canadian fishermen, the Indians. I believe there is an awareness of the need to assist our Indian fishermen. I applaud the development of the Indian Fishermen's Development Board by the Department of Fisheries, in conjunction with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. This is a five man board to administer loans and grants to be paid to the Indians of British Columbia for the construction and purchase of fishing vessels, equipment, gear and other related facilities, as well as providing a fisheries training course. This program involves an expenditure of \$4.6 million to be spread over a five year period. Also in this regard, the new vessels built for ownership and operation by the Indians under the Indian fishermen's assistance program are exempt from the licensing limitation. I certainly believe this merits commendation.

Licence limitation is to be implemented, as I have already mentioned, because productivity has been going down and because, as our minister stated, there have been too many boats and too much gear chasing too few fish. The "few fish" in my opinion is the key, and conservation is the answer. In this regard, the legislation enacted in 1964 to establish the 12 mile limit would be of some help. A 12 mile limit with a base line drawn from headland to headland would be of even greater help. I urge our minister actively to undertake the establishment of this base line, and the 12 mile limit on the west coast, as soon as possible. As a matter of fact, of even more help would be a continental shelf limit. Foreign vessels are fishing just outside our 12 mile limit. These are large vessels, in excess of 200 feet in length, with factory and processing ships. They are dragging our ocean floor and nothing is returned; all that is seen is a puff of white smoke emitted from the stack on the stern of these ships.

Unfortunately our salmon and other species of fish do not recognize the 12 mile limit. I think the Department of Fisheries is to be commended for the research work it is doing,