

*Fisheries Act*

Act, it will be possible for the minister to grant a licence for the catching of lobsters on the high seas by the use of regular lobster traps as spelled out in section 6 of the Lobster Fishery Regulations.

It was this information that brought consternation and fear into the hearts of our inshore lobster fishermen. Up and down the coast of Nova Scotia, meetings were held, some of which were attended by a provincial Liberal candidate who obviously is having second thoughts about the party he is pledged to support since he is reported in the press as stating he is opposed to the amendments in this bill. Members of all parties have received resolutions and telegrams from these worried fishermen. These resolutions and telegrams come from Sable River, West Shelburne County, the Barrington municipal council, Port Joli, Queen's County, and the Lobster Bay Fisherman's Association of Lower Woods Harbour. In fact, the Prince Edward Island legislature also approved unanimously a resolution asking that section 31 of the Fisheries Act be not repealed. I am informed that a copy of this resolution was forwarded to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry.

Listen to the plea of the fishermen in their resolution, as printed in an open letter to the Hon. Jack Davis, Minister of Fisheries, in the *Halifax Chronicle Herald* of Tuesday, June 23. The hon. member for South Western Nova has read some of the contents of the letter, so I shall not burden the House with it again.

I should like, however, to place on the record, so that all hon. members will know of this, the concern of the hundreds of inshore fishermen in Atlantic Canada. These are the views of these men as expressed in this advertisement, which is the first advertisement of this type I have seen in my 13 years in the House of Commons. I am referring to the resolution which appears alongside the open letter as printed from the Lobster Bay Fishermen's Association. It reads as follows:

Whereas lobster fishermen on the South Shore of Nova Scotia depend entirely on the harvest of lobsters by the use or traps, said system having proved over a period of 100 years or more the most efficient from the standpoint of total catch and enforcement of present regulations;

Whereas approximately 40 per cent of the lobster fishermen in this area now operate beyond the 12-mile limit during the present lobster season;

Whereas the lobsters placed on the market obtained by the use of drags would reduce the price of said product, therefore creating economic chaos in the affected areas;

[Mr. Crouse.]

Whereas it will be physically impossible to enforce the 12-mile limit due to weather conditions and the lack of patrol craft;

Whereas the adoption of a program such as this would on the surface seem very unfair to all fishermen and within a very short time result in the complete destruction of the industry as it presently applies to the small craft fishermen;

The Lobster Bay Fishermen's Association strongly oppose any change whatsoever in the present regulations;

Be it therefore resolved that the federal Minister of Fisheries, the Hon. Jack Davis, strongly oppose this bill.

This is to certify that the resolution of which the foregoing is a true copy was duly passed at a duly called meeting of the Lobster Bay Fishermen's Association duly held on the 18th day of May, A.D., 1970.

Given under the hands of the president and secretary of the said association this 19th day of May, A.D., 1970.

● (3:00 p.m.)

This is a plea from the citizens of this country who are worried about their future, the future of their wives and children and the future of their industry. They know that any adverse economic effect as a result of the repeal of section 31 of the Fisheries Act would be very harmful to thousands of inshore lobster fishermen as well as to the economy of Atlantic Canada, especially Nova Scotia. The amazing thing about all this is that we have a government which promised on the election platform a just society, confrontation with the people and participatory democracy. Obviously, this government does not know the meaning of the words for they have proceeded with the repeal of section 31 of the Fisheries Act without any discussion, without any prior meetings with the people concerned, namely, the inshore lobster fishermen. This was done because the attitude of the present government seems to be that they know what is best for everyone whether it be fisheries, finance, forestry or farming. They say, "We make the laws. You had better accept them without complaint and without a murmur, because we know what we want to do with you". Well, the people of Canada are having second thoughts and they are getting some very firm ideas about what they would like to do with this government.

**Mr. Pilon:** Wrong!

**Mr. Crouse:** Hon. members opposite disagree with that statement. All I ask them to do is read some of the briefs that have been submitted in respect of the white paper on taxation. The Minister of Fisheries and Fores-