

Supply—Fisheries

done; but since the seal fishery is prescribed in areas adjacent to Canadian waters it might be well if Canada were to give that extra impetus which this conservation program requires. It may be that efforts in this direction are further complicated by the fact that, although Russian ships have been very active recently both in the seal fishery and in other branches of the fishing industry, Russia is not a member of the international northwest Atlantic fisheries convention. Nevertheless, it may be possible to obtain with respect to the north Atlantic the same co-operation that has been experienced in the north Pacific in the hope that this form of marine life may continue to provide a sustainable annual yield by regulated methods and at the same time be protected in such a manner as to afford a maximum opportunity for survival.

Mr. Carter: I should like to resume at this time the remarks which I was making on this item on the day when these estimates were last before the committee. I think that day was May 12. At that time I had pointed out to the committee that the fishing industry on the Atlantic coast of Canada was not prosperous. The industry as a whole might be holding its own, but it was certainly not as prosperous as the fishery on the west coast, and in many sections it was very much a depressed industry. Particularly in terms of returns to the fishermen there had not been very much improvement in the last 10 or 12 years.

To remedy that situation I urged upon the minister the need for an over-all program of fishery development for the Atlantic provinces. That program should embrace all phases of the industry in all provinces. It should co-ordinate all the different agencies connected with the fisheries in all the provinces and it should be flexible enough to make provision for individual differences in the industry as between one province and another.

The second course of action which I urged upon the minister at that time was to set up a fact finding body to get the necessary information upon which such a program of development could be based. That fact finding body could first of all, I think, investigate the clash of interests within the industry itself, that is, as between one phase of the industry and another, or between different phases of the industry in different provinces.

There is no doubt that a clash of interests does exist, and ways and means must be found to avoid future differences and reconcile existing ones. The second category of facts which I think should be investigated is the individual problems connected with the industry which are peculiar to certain provinces. My colleague, the hon. member for

Bonavista-Twillingate, referred to one of them this morning in connection with the light salted fish industry, which we share with the people of Gaspé but which perhaps does not obtain in the other Atlantic provinces.

In connection with the salt fish industry there is the problem of culling. Some years ago government officials attached to the department were qualified to cull fish. That particular practice was not too satisfactory in many cases and after a while the department abandoned this idea of having official cullers. But there is still a need for something to be done along this line and I think the particular problems which arise in connection with the culling of fish and the standardizing of culls is one that should be investigated in all provinces.

In connection with the inshore fishery we have a very particular problem in Newfoundland which I think is not shared by any other province. Any program for development of the fisheries in Newfoundland must certainly make provision to do something about it. The problem to which I refer is the distribution of our population along a large coast line and broken down into a large number of small settlements.

A few days ago we passed a bill in this house to rehabilitate rural communities. At that time I asked the Minister of Agriculture whether there was any way in which the principles involved in that legislation could be used in connection with the rehabilitation of fishing communities. I am not going to repeat the minister's reply; it can be found at the bottom of page 5593 of *Hansard*; but the minister did indicate in his answer that this question was being given some consideration.

I hope the Minister of Fisheries will get together with his colleague the Minister of Agriculture and work out some arrangement whereby this principle of rural rehabilitation can be applied to the fishing communities in my province. Our own provincial government has for several years grappled with this problem. They have had a program of concentration of population whereby a number of settlements have been denuded and the inhabitants have been induced to move their houses and belongings to larger settlements.

However, it has been found from experience that this sort of program is far beyond the financial resources of our provincial government; yet it is an essential part of any program of fisheries development in Newfoundland and it is something that must be done. I believe the legislation which we passed in this house for the rehabilitation or rural communities can be very well applied