

Supply—Fisheries

• (2:40 p.m.)

I have a particular incident in mind. I have witnessed this myself, as have a number of my friends in this area. Sport fishermen in fast boats need only proceed half a mile across the international boundary to take fish from a favourite fishing area. I am thinking in particular of an area known as East Point which is on the international boundary line. Canadian fishermen are limited both as to the number and size of fish they may take, but sport fishermen from the other side of the border are inclined to ignore the regulations, knowing there is no proper policing of the area.

I realize we cannot have one fisheries protection vessel for every sport fishing craft in the area, but I think we could do better than is being done now. I should like the minister to look into the possibility of authorizing lighthousekeepers in the area to act as fishery patrol officers. I suggest they should be given the equipment with which to patrol these local areas in order to see that Canadian sport fishermen are not prejudiced and that our hospitality on this side of the border is not abused.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Chairman, speaking as the representative of one of the largest fishing constituencies in the Atlantic provinces, I welcome this opportunity to comment briefly on the estimates of the Department of Fisheries. I may say that I share the views expressed by the hon. member for Queens when he commented on these estimates and stated that this may well be the last occasion on which we will be hearing from the present minister, having regard to press statements that he may soon be residing in the other place. Whatever lies in the future for him, I assure the hon. gentleman that I wish him well.

I know that members of the committee and Canadians generally were saddened this spring by the news that 12 members of the crew of the fishing trawler *Reliance* were lost when the vessel collided with the Liberian freighter *Bordapian*. This tragedy brought back memories of the *Acadia Sea Hawk* out of Mulgrave, Nova Scotia, which disappeared in a December storm in 1964 at which time 14 men lost their lives. The fate of both the *Reliance* and the *Acadia Sea Hawk* are tragic examples of the risk faced by our fishermen throughout the year. This does not represent the whole story, however, for in the past two years a total of 51 men lost their lives at sea

[Mr. Groos.]

off the coasts of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Deaths at sea continue to occur despite the many navigational aids provided by modern science, and these deaths serve to bring home to all who are employed on land the many hazards faced by our fishermen.

These tragic occurrences underline the necessity of providing improved weather data for our fishermen and mariners. In this modern age we are often amazed by the scientific data sent back to earth from satellites circling the globe and by instruments landed on the moon. I would ask the government to consider setting up a complete system of weather buoys moored in the Atlantic ocean for the purpose of sending weather data almost instantaneously to stations along the Atlantic coast as well as inland if necessary. The use of these weather buoys would have a major impact on weather forecasting since it would provide a regular supply of data from fixed positions and from inaccessible ocean areas from which we are not now collecting such information.

To pursue this idea further, it should be possible for electronic buoys to broadcast weather data to earth satellites which could in turn rebroadcast this information on demand to any point on earth. These fixed buoys could collect such information as sea and air temperatures, wind direction and velocity and barometric pressures. Relay from the satellites could be by very high frequency radio waves and information could be picked up on the ground by relatively inexpensive receiving apparatus installed in aircraft or in ships at sea.

The setting up of a weather system of this type would, I believe, receive support from other nations using the sea lanes and the airways. The data provided would give warning of weather changes and impending storms in time to prevent further loss of life among our fishermen.

The report of the standing committee draws attention to some of the problems facing the fishing industry as they were expressed by the members of that committee during its 17 meetings. One of the areas of concern is the evident breakdown of recent international negotiations to conserve and protect the fisheries from which Canadian fishermen derive their livelihood. This criticism immediately brings to mind the government's inaction with regard to its stated intention to establish through unilateral action