

Interim Supply

where these herring are spawned, but we do know that if the spawning banks are interfered with we will not be able to get the small fish.

We had an example of this when years ago the spawning bank was protected on the island of Grand Manan, sometimes by British warships. Finally, some people became somewhat greedy and invaded the spawning banks. In a few years time, the herring fishery was exhausted. So we know from experience that if spawning banks and spawn herring are not protected, the industry disappears.

The small herring not only supply the canneries but also supply other fish with food. When you reduce the herring supply, you also reduce food for other ground fish. So naturally the herring fishery affects all fishery. Therefore it is an absolute necessity that the herring fishery be protected. We do not want the industry on the east coast to suffer as did the industry on the west coast as a result of the failure to impose restrictions in time. A number of reduction plants on the east coast are now superfluous. Some of them were subsidized by the federal government. I think the Department of Fisheries should investigate any reduction plant before it is established in the Atlantic provinces to see whether or not it is economical.

Of course the provinces are anxious to get any money that is going, and if the federal government is ready to come forth with aid, the provinces will naturally try to profit from it. However, this matter should be reviewed, and the Department of Fisheries should have some say as to the grants made by the Department of Industry to establish reduction plants. It is very important that the herring industry be protected.

A few years ago I spoke about the clam industry and I outlined what I thought should be done to protect it. However, nothing was done and the department continued in the same old way. Last year the last clam factory in my constituency was torn down. This came about as a result of the lack of attention given to the views of the local people. We do not want this to happen to the herring industry, particularly to the small herring industry which employs a great many people. We will not get the small fish if all the spawn herring are taken away and the spawning banks are left unprotected.

[Mr. McLean (Charlotte).]

● (4:40 p.m.)

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, like the former speaker I wanted to say something on supplementary estimates but owing to the agreement found it impossible to do so. However, I should like to raise the question of gasoline prices and the problem posed by gas and oil distribution across the country.

Mr. Forrestall: How many more speeches are you going to make?

Mr. Peters: There will be one more in a few moments, if I hear such comments.

Mr. Forrestall: How many times were you on your feet during the last two weeks?

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Peters: If the junior member for Halifax wants to make a speech he should stand up and make it. If not, let him go and have a smoke or otherwise sit quietly in his seat, in which case he will be appreciated more than he is vocally.

The Minister of Industry, who was previously responsible for the National Energy Board and for energy in general, will recall a number of charges and countercharges having been made about the pricing of gasoline, especially imported gasoline. I have been particularly interested in an inquiry made about two years ago by the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission into gas and oil pricing in northern Ontario. This matter has been raised not only in this house on several occasions but also in the Ontario legislature. There seems to be general agreement that the matter is one mainly for the federal government, I presume for the new consumer affairs department; and incidentally it fits into the same category of problem that was raised by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway in relation to milk and other commodities.

The problem can be fairly simply stated, Mr. Chairman. It involves what I consider the unfair price of gasoline in northern Ontario. The question affects not only northern Ontario but every other area outside metropolitan areas where the mark-up on gasoline appears to be agreed upon by retailers. These retailers cannot take advantage of bulk buying as do their competitors in other parts.

The Restrictive Trade Practices Commission investigated the cause of a gasoline price war in Toronto in connection with the Texaco Canada Limited service stations of Mr. Edmunds and Wilky's Sales and Service Ltd. The company was supporting the price of the