

It should be unnecessary for me to repeat that with our long and close association it is not only natural but instinctive for us to give the utmost consideration to the legitimate needs and aspirations of our friends in the United Kingdom and the United States. The distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom has emphasized the importance of fishing to the people of the United Kingdom. In many ways and over many years, Canada has given ample proof of our desire to co-operate with the United Kingdom. We have reasons of long friendship and close association for co-operating in every reasonable way that is possible with the United States. But we also have our own interest and so has every other state. I do submit that the first interest in the fishing waters adjacent to any state should be the legitimate and reasonable interests of the people of that state itself wherever it may be in the whole world.

I do think that one of the things which has not been emphasized sufficiently is that the enormous new fishing trawlers now being built in many great shipyards of all different nations throughout the world in such very large numbers are not only a threat to the fishing interests of the people living along the fishing coasts of different states but they also make it possible for other nations which find it necessary to fish in distant waters to fish farther out from the shore than they have ever done in the past. In fact, we have one very clear example of that at present. One of the nations which has been fishing for the longest time in our eastern waters and which has equipped its fishing fleet with very modern trawlers has recently given its trawler captains instructions not to fish within 20 miles of our coast. This is for the very simple but important reason that with modern equipment they lose a great deal of valuable tackle if they fish too close to a rugged shoreline and moreover that with modern equipment they get better and bigger fish farther out. I would hope that some of the nations which are concerned for the reservation of these rights would recognize that by modernizing their fishing fleets, as I am sure they are bound to do without delay in any event, they will find the whole character of their distant fishing will change in a way which will greatly diminish, if not entirely remove, any unfavourable consequences of the adoption of a 12-mile fishing zone.

The distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom has very properly pointed out the economic and historic importance of fishing to their people. For reasons which I have indicated, I trust that the greatest shipbuilding nation in the world will be able to accommodate itself to these conditions which are inevitable in any event and in that way assure themselves of even greater catches in future than ever before. Every honorable delegate here today knows that off the coasts of Canada there are great fishing areas, some of the greatest fishing areas in the world, which are in no way affected by any limitation such as we propose in regard to a 12-mile fishing zone. May I at the same time as I express this hope also emphasize the fact once again that fishing