

The Address—Mr. Carter

open receipt system. This is a system which encourages exploitation and which would not be acceptable to any other producers in Canada or in North America today. In effect, what happens is that the Newfoundland fishermen cure their fish salt and ship them to exporters who in turn give them an open receipt without any commitment as to price. Then in the fall when the fish is exported, the fish merchants decide upon the amount the fishermen shall receive for their catches. This is the most terrible system one could imagine. It leaves the fishermen open to the worst kind of exploitation by the merchants, the majority of whom have been traditionally noted for their lack of charity and concern for anyone but themselves.

I strongly urge the minister to take the necessary steps to establish a salt fish marketing board in order that the fishermen of eastern Canada may experience a sense of security and know how much they will earn for their summer's toil. What Canadian today, working in industry, on a farm, in an office or with the civil service, would work for three and five months a year without any guarantee being given as to what he will earn? I do not think anyone would do it. I do not know why east coast fishermen should be expected to do it, either. It is most unfair, and the system does not lend itself to the prosecution of this important industry to the best advantage. As I have said, I believe the minister should take immediate steps to establish a salt fish marketing board.

In the light of what has happened this year, especially to the Labrador fishery, I believe it is time the government introduced catch failure insurance for the fishing industry. I feel the fishing economy of the Atlantic provinces needs a sense of security as well as a program which would motivate those engaged in it to prosecute the fisheries to best advantage. I believe the regulations prohibiting the killing of whitecoats and the culling of seals are harmful. I think they will have an adverse effect on the economy of the areas affected. I believe the regulations were passed after complaints from people who did not know what they were talking about. This is borne out by the fact that in recent years a number of scientists and representatives of associations interested in the protection of animals have visited the ice floes without finding anything to complain about in connection with the way seals were being killed. I beg the minister to give serious thought to setting up a salt fish marketing corporation to give our

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fishermen a sense of security and to create in them a motive for prosecuting this important industry in eastern Canada.

I now turn to housing. I notice that the minister responsible for housing is in the chamber this evening. I contend that the present housing crisis in Canada demands that the government adopt a bold, new approach in the area of housing and urban renewal. For Newfoundland and the other "have not" provinces the situation is compelling. At the present time nothing is being done to assist the average wage-earner in acquiring decent housing. The Speech from the Throne makes reference to the desirability of our citizens being housed in happy and pleasant surroundings. The government has again emphasized its desire to satisfy the needs of low-income families. But it is obvious to all of us that despite this pretence or interest no legislation is, in fact, promised to alleviate the serious housing problems which face Canadians today. In place of concrete proposals or legislation the minister responsible for housing has applied an urban renewal freeze. Instead of undertaking urban renewal schemes in my riding the government has done nothing but make promises and break them. I would mention one urban renewal scheme in my riding where people are not allowed to improve their properties or extend their homes to accommodate larger families because of the requirements of a grandiose plan which is being prepared by the federal government, the provincial government and the municipal government of St. John's.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Does the House give unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Carter: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the other members of the House for allowing me to carry on. I think this matter is so important that it should be debated tonight. Many people are suffering in Canada, in my riding and no doubt in other ridings because of the freeze imposed on urban renewal schemes. In my province, 90 per cent of the wage-earners are earning less than \$6,000. These people are too well off to avail themselves of direct government assistance for housing or to qualify for subsidized apartments, but they are not sufficiently well off as