

*Supply—Fisheries and Forestry*

**Mr. Carter:** Mr. Chairman, the trained seals can bang their desks, but to the people for whom I have tried to get these things it is no joke.

● (4:40 p.m.)

I have made numerous representations to various ministers to get certain things for my riding. I made a representation to the Minister of Public Works through the Minister of Fisheries for the provision of certain facilities in the small town of Peter's River in St. John's West. This was meant to assist the fishermen in a settlement called St. Vincent's, in St. Mary's bay. St. Vincent's is completely exposed to the Atlantic and it has no facilities for tying up or docking boats. Fishermen come in there and have to pitchfork their fish from the boat to the beach and then, with the help of a couple of young fellows or older people, they have to pitchfork the fish from the beach to the stage. When I asked that facilities be provided to eliminate this problem I was told by the Minister of Public Works that this would cost \$66,000. I find it extremely difficult to reconcile the minister's refusal when it has been rumoured and indeed stated that as much as \$50,000 has been spent on furnishing the office of one of the ministers in this government. How can I go back to the people of that area, whose livelihood is completely dependent on the fisheries, and tell them that we cannot get this facility provided because the government feels that the expenditure is not justified, while at the same time we learn that \$50,000 can be spent to furnish a minister's office?

**Mr. Drury:** Which one?

**Mr. Carter:** I am sure the minister is as aware of which one as I am.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Did they not do it for you, Bud?

**Mr. Carter:** I support the remarks made by my colleagues on this side of the house when they said that a very serious situation is developing in Newfoundland at the present time. If it is allowed to develop and to come to a head it will have dire and drastic effects on the lives of at least a quarter of the population of Newfoundland. I feel that this government and the minister, for whom I have much respect, should make an announcement very shortly to the effect that assistance will be forthcoming so that these companies, which are now threatening to close their doors and thereby throw out of work 2,500

[Mr. Mahoney.]

plant workers, plus 1,200 trawlermen, will be able to see their way clear to stay in business and to continue contributing to the economy of Newfoundland. This is what I ask. I hope that the minister and the government will see fit within the next few hours to make an announcement to this effect.

**Mr. Durante:** Mr. Chairman, I was a little reluctant to rise because I thought this was the day set aside for a discussion of the Newfoundland fisheries. I think hon. members opposite should realize that Canadian fisheries are not only to be found in Newfoundland. I should also like to point out that, in my opinion at least, many Canadians are not aware of the value of the Canadian commercial fisheries, both freshwater and saltwater, to the Canadian economy. I should like to cite some statistics in this regard. Canadian commercial fisheries employ in excess of 70,000 fishermen and some 15,000 other people involved in fish processing plants. I should like to quote figures relating to the 1967 catch. During that year two and a half billion pounds valued at \$161.5 million was caught. The process value of this catch was \$325 million. Canada is second only to Japan among the fish exporting nations of the world. It exports approximately 70 per cent of fish production and 60 per cent of its exports go to the United States, with the remainder to Britain and other nations. These statistics indicate how important the commercial fishery is to the Canadian economy. I was pleased to hear the Minister of Fisheries mention this morning that the 1968 catch, to date, is up by 10 per cent and that fishermen's earnings this year are up by 12 per cent. With all due respect to the Newfoundland representatives I should like to devote my remarks to the west coast fishery.

The total catch in British Columbia for 1967 was 332 million pounds with a total value of \$49 million. Salmon, which is the chief catch in B.C., brought a gross revenue of \$36 million, well over 50 per cent of the total. These statistics in turn indicate the importance in value of the west coast fisheries in relation to the total Canadian fisheries.

One of the first things that our present Minister of Fisheries did—and I think it is something for which he should be commended and applauded—was to announce licence limitations legislation which is to go into