

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

at such a high rate. His bill would help reduce the dollar incentive for their extermination. One member of this House suggested that the government tell the US Senator "to keep his elongated American probosis south of the border" and apply himself to solving the foreign and domestic problems of his own country. I can understand the deep concern of this member who comes from Newfoundland, but I would suggest that irritation over the problem is no solution to it; and solutions must be found.

One suggestion is that if a seal sanctuary were established in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the tourist benefits to be derived from it would offset, at least in part, the monetary loss to that section of the country. True, there might be difficulties in initiating such a project and the benefits might fall far short of the need. But it is my understanding that the Department of Fisheries and Forestry is considering it as part of the solution. In any event, alternative employment must be found for the seal hunters. Canadians from coast to coast in increasing numbers are becoming sickened by what the minister has called "a very gory happening". Seals aren't killed for food or essential clothing. Domestic animals can be slaughtered under conditions which keep pain and fear to a minimum. This is not true of seals on shifting ice floes.

Suppose alternative employment still falls short and income must still be provided for seal hunters and their families. James Eayrs, in his recent eloquent and humane article on the need to abolish the seal hunt, observes:

We pay Prairie farmers not to grow wheat. Why can't we pay Maritimers and Newfoundlanders not to kill baby seals?

Why not, indeed? The good name of Canada in the world community is at stake.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, this week we are setting up a special advisory committee on Atlantic seals. It is composed of scientists and executive members of international humane societies, all of whom have visited the seal hunt on a number of occasions. This committee will study not only humane methods of harvesting seals but will also recommend measures to the government to ensure the maintenance of seal herds in the future.

We are making a number of changes and we are also in a better position to manage the hunt than in previous years. One of the reasons for this is that the Gulf of St. Lawrence is now totally under Canadian control in so far as the harvesting of seals is concerned. The promulgation of the closing lines across the Cabot Strait and the Strait of Belle Isle for the first time makes all of the Gulf of the St. Lawrence exclusively Canadian from an administrative point of view.

We are in control of the Gulf of St. Lawrence but we do not control the North Atlantic off Labrador except within the 12-mile limit. Other countries will harvest there and it is therefore necessary to convince them, including Norway, to observe the over-all quotas. This is the first time we have had quotas for seals. In future this will be geared to the findings of this special committee and I suggest that next year at least the quota will be somewhat reduced.

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

I named in a press release today six prominent people from various countries who will serve on this special advisory committee. We hope to get two others from outside Canada to serve on the committee as well. We will pay close attention to their recommendations. They are from international, humane organizations. They are not employees of the government of Canada and certainly not employees of the federal Department of Fisheries. As I say, we are going to listen to them very carefully.

I want to observe again that the seal hunt is not totally within Canadian control or Canadian territory. There are literally millions of seals, and the harp seal is not in any immediate danger of extinction. There are a number of native people and people living in very small, remote communities who still earn a substantial part of their livelihood from the seal fishery. We must also take them into consideration. People who live in highly populated communities and who are accustomed to an affluent way of life cannot possibly understand the primitive conditions under which these people live. We must pay some attention to their livelihood and welfare as well.

MANPOWER—AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS TO EXTEND
RETRAINING PERIOD

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, the other day I asked the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang) about the general dissatisfaction that many trainees feel. They are dissatisfied, not with their instructors or the local personnel of Manpower offices but with the stupidity and rigidity of regulations governing the courses they want to take. I have received many complaints both verbally and by letter. Many trainees have come to see me to discuss their problems. I have heard their complaints. There were reasoned and reasonable complaints. Many were trapped in the rigidity of the courses or blocks of courses they were taking. Why was that, Mr. Speaker? The answer is that the Manpower people too often refuse to treat trainees as individuals.

Everything possible should be done to see that a trainee is given the academic training necessary not only for the private but for the public sector as well. By that I mean that trainees should reach grade 12 levels of education. Many of them do not reach that level which is being demanded. Some reach the grade 12 level and the department boasts that their earnings increase by 20 per cent as compared with previous earnings.

In training trainees, the demands of the market must be assessed. They must be trained to meet the demands of the market, and I do not think this is being done adequately. There are grave doubts on this score. There are indications that the requirements of the labour market ought to be assessed better and that its future requirements ought to be looked at more carefully. It is of paramount importance, with the unemployed lists growing at the rate of 100 per day, as they have been for the past two years, that every effort be made to see that trainees get a position and begin earning, thereby adding to the economy rather than drawing from it.

Manpower training has been described as a disaster because bureaucratic regulations will not allow some who