

Commercial Fisheries Development

of straight base lines, and the 12-mile fishing zone measure therefor. Those straight base lines which we were promised faithfully would come into effect before the end of 1964 we have not yet seen. I say that unless we draw those straight base lines so as to include Dixon entrance, Hecate strait and Queen Charlotte sound, the three immense bodies of water which are in the north central part of the province, and draw those base lines in such a way as to close off those areas to prevent other nations exploiting the fisheries there, we could very easily find other nations seeking to exploit the very groundfish that we are so proud of. It is imperative that this be done or the good contemplated by the bill before us can come to nothing.

From the Alaska Panhandle a number of rivers, the Stikine being a notable one, form the spawning base of fish in Canadian territory. In order to come to these spawning grounds salmon have to go to Alaskan or to United States waters. Part of the way up the Stikine river, in United States territory, United States fishermen without any compunction can stretch their nets across the mouth of the river and catch the salmon as they swim up that river. I believe that conservation practices that we contemplate with respect to the Stikine fishery could again come to nothing. This also requires some degree of international co-operation. That is so not only with respect to the Stikine, but also with respect to other waters where fish come to spawn, or where they have to go through foreign territory to their spawning beds in Canada.

● (9:10 p.m.)

I turn now to domestic questions. In the last number of years we have seen that logging and construction companies have dredged up spawning beds in order to build roads. They have dumped logging debris and slash into rivers to such a degree that spawning beds have been destroyed. Not many weeks ago right in my own community of Terrace a logging company was seen to have carried out its operations with bulldozers blazing their way through a particular river, while young steelhead were to be seen there. The answer we got from the Department of Fisheries was: We are sorry, but we did not have that listed as a salmon spawning stream so we could not put anything in the contract as far as the logging company was concerned. This is really the height of ignorance—a department having to admit that one stream,

[Mr. Howard.]

and I do not know how many others, was not listed as a salmon spawning stream. I do not know how we can engage in effective conservation programs when information about the salmon spawning areas is not complete. Unless we do more in this field we shall find that some of the good and beneficial parts of the bill before us will not be realized.

I know that in his heart the minister wants to do everything he possibly can to enhance our fisheries. I know that in his heart he wants to do everything he possibly can to seek out new fisheries projects. I know he wants to have conservation practiced by everyone concerned; it is his hope that conservation will be in the minds of everyone. I know that in his heart he wants to do these things. The bill before us may or may not be able to bring about the desired results. It depends upon what the minister intends to do from now on, not only in respect of those things contemplated in the bill which are desirable in themselves, but also with regard to those matters to which my hon. friend from Comox-Alberni referred—the activities of other nations and other governments, notably the government in British Columbia.

If the minister would strike out in all directions in the name of conservation and the exploration of our fisheries, perhaps a day will come when we can be much more proud than we are now of our fisheries and of our fisheries department.

Mr. Crouse: As the representative of Queens-Lunenburg I welcome this opportunity to make a few comments on Bill C-145, an act to provide for the development of the commercial fisheries of Canada.

I listened with great interest to the Minister of Fisheries when he presented this bill, and in my view it is certainly a comprehensive one which, if properly applied, could affect all aspects of the fishing industry. The bill says in one clause that the minister may make provision for the more efficient exploitation of fisheries resources, the exploration for and development of new fisheries. I believe this is the most important clause in the bill.

For many years in Nova Scotia the fishing industry was an affair of small boats, small capital investment and a surplus of manpower. It was based almost entirely on salt fish. Today the industry is greatly changed. It is based on larger boats with modern equipment, and instead of a surplus of manpower