

*Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act*

two aspects of Canadian sovereignty, the territorial seas of Canada and the fishing zones of Canada. It is not my intention to speak at any length on this measure this evening. I say this because the bill received a searching analysis when it came before the House for second reading on Wednesday, April 22, at which time I participated in the debate. It was referred to committee where it received clause by clause study and at that time all members had an opportunity to present their views on this legislation.

The bill proposes to extend the seas over which we have exclusive sovereign control from three miles to 12 miles. That declaration makes necessary the extension of Canadian-controlled fishing zones inasmuch as the proposed 12-mile territorial limit includes the present 9-mile fishing zone adjacent to the present 3-mile limit of our territorial waters. We in the official opposition are in full accord with the principle of this bill. We raised certain questions in the committee. We questioned why the declaration of what are all-Canadian fishing zones must be left to the discretion of the Governor in Council. We questioned why the legislation cannot provide that certain waters are Canadian fishing zones subject to extension by the Governor in Council. Quite frankly, we received no adequate reply. Our concern is based on the fact that everything we have heretofore left to the Governor in Council with respect to our territorial waters and our fishing zones has been marked by timidity, caution and inaction.

Six years have passed since we authorized the Governor in Council to issue geographical co-ordinates from which our territorial waters and fishing zones might be established. At that time, if you read the debates and the statement of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, you will see that we were promised this action within a year. We all know what happened. It is almost seven years later, and neither Canadians nor the rest of the world know where along our entire coastline are our territorial waters and fishing zones. The minister, or whoever replies, may say that this is not correct. I would have to agree that some of the baselines have been drawn and some of the areas have been defined, but the basic conservation areas such as the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of St. Lawrence have not been sealed off, areas where the prolific herring run in the spring of the year followed by the groundfish and where foreign fleets gather in enormous numbers. Year after year

[Mr. Crouse.]

ever since 1964 these fleets have depleted our fishery resources until today some species are almost extinct.

It has become necessary for the Department of Fisheries and Forestry, in order to conserve one species—haddock, for example—to put in special fishing limitations on this species or else the well-known shore dinner of fin and haddie, as we know it in Atlantic Canada, would be only a memory. We were promised in the House that the government would phase out the fishing activities of the eight nations which claim the right to exploit Canadian fishing waters, namely, the United Kingdom, the United States, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Norway and Denmark.

● (9:20 p.m.)

Have we seen this action, Mr. Speaker? Has anything been done? We who are directly concerned with and interested in the fishing problems of Atlantic Canada cannot help but wonder when some action will be taken on this matter. Over the years we have watched the fishing activities of these eight nations which claim the right to exploit Canadian fishing resources. In some cases we have watched them bring our fishing resources to almost certain destruction, and yet speaking on second reading of this bill in the House of Commons the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) on April 17, as recorded at page 6017, of *Hansard* said:

Following the establishment of Canada's new fishing zones we intend to conclude negotiations for the phasing out of the fishing activities of the countries which have traditionally fished in the areas concerned, namely, Britain, Norway, Denmark, France, Spain and Italy. With respect to the fishing activities of the United States in these areas, it is intended that they should continue on the basis of the ad referendum agreement on reciprocal fishing privileges we have recently negotiated with that country. Apart from traditional fishing practices, the United States and France also have certain treaty rights off Canada's east coast, and these rights will of course be respected.

This is all very well, Mr. Speaker, but what of the rights of Canadian fishermen? Must they stand idly by every week, every month watching while our fishing resources are depleted? I wonder if the members of this House have any idea of the problems that these people face, problems which were compounded only this week by the announcement of the revaluation of the dollar. Here we have an industry almost entirely dependent on its exports to the United States and in many cases hanging on by a thread, paying sub-standard wages. Now the industry must try to