

*Supply—Fisheries*

the men who are no longer able to find employment at Stephenville on the United States base were able to see that the facilities for fishing were going to be provided for them. I would again suggest to the minister, therefore, that rather than have the community stage program proceed at a slower pace, perhaps he could speed it up so as to provide some of these facilities for the St. Barbe coast and for the Port au Port peninsula.

I should like at this point to make a few brief comments regarding the seal fishery in the northwest Atlantic area. In the past few years and in recent days in the House of Commons we have heard a great deal as to the past and present methods of harvesting these resources. We have been informed that nations other than Canada are sending men with modern equipment to augment the indiscriminate killing which in time must result in the complete destruction of this form of marine life. Much has been said about the need for conservation and control measures if the seal is not to follow some other forms of Canadian wildlife into the realm of total extinction.

These expressions of opinion are not new. Intermittently over a period of 40 years people in various walks of life from the individual conservationist to the marine biologist, from the seal hunter to the businessman in the trade, from organizations at the local level to the United Nations, have expressed views as to what should or should not be done to preserve this natural resource and at the same time maintain a maximum sustainable yield having regard for other forms of marine life.

Conservationists became interested in this problem as early as 1920. Further representations were made to the Newfoundland government in 1930. The Canadian government began a survey in 1950, which was completed in 1956. In 1958, at the United Nations conference on the law of the sea the following resolution was agreed on:

The United Nations conference on the law of the sea requests states to prescribe by all means available to them those methods of capturing and killing marine life, especially of whales and seals, which will spare them suffering to the greatest extent possible.

Canada was represented at that conference and supported this resolution. From surveys which have been made and from the experience of many engaged in the industry I suggest that it is clear that some conservation methods are necessary and may in fact be well overdue. In this particular industry as well as in many other fields of endeavour there is a need for adequate scientific information upon which sound, practical and effective regulations can be based. There is also

the problem of obtaining the co-operation of all those concerned within the confines of our own country. Maybe the situation is still further complicated by the fact that a large part of the sealing operation is carried on outside Canadian territorial waters. Maybe it is fair to say that because other nations such as Norway and Russia prosecute the seal fishery in areas adjacent to Canadian waters, Canada should take the initiative in arriving at some agreement with these nations which have a direct commercial interest in the industry.

In February, 1957, the north Pacific fur seal commission was established. Represented on this commission are Canada, Japan, the United States and the U.S.S.R. The purpose of this commission is to establish regulations based on knowledge resulting from scientific research which will best conserve the fur seal herds in and around the Bering sea; including the Pribilof islands, the Commander islands and Robben island. This commission met from January 22 to February 4, 1961, in Japan. At that meeting the Canadian representative, Dr. William M. Sprules, said this:

The convention under which this commission is established contains references to several principles which we in Canada believe are essential to the rational utilization of any marine resource. These include recognition of the need for international co-operation to achieve maximum sustainable productivity of important marine resources; recognition of the need for detailed scientific knowledge; recognition of the complex biological inter-relationships existing between one resource and another; and recognition of the need to waive the right of free fishing in specific instances. The constantly growing world interest in utilization of the valuable living resources of the sea coupled with the rapid technological advances in harvesting efficiency make it apparent that the principles just referred to might be expected to form the foundation of future international agreements concerned with conservation of the living resources of the sea.

I believe these words were well spoken and I would commend them to all those who have an interest in our marine resources, not only in reaping an annual harvest but also in promoting those conservation measures which will ensure that continuing annual harvests will be possible.

Canada was a signatory to the international northwest Atlantic fisheries convention in 1949. This body does not have regulatory powers but it can make representations to the governments included in the agreement. I would suggest that at the next meeting of this commission Canada should initiate discussions leading to the proper surveys being made which in turn would result in the formulation and implementation of measures designed to conserve the harp seal of the north Atlantic. I should indicate here that I understand that a great deal of work in this regard is being