

pared to suggest that the terms of this legislation would be appropriate if the government were prepared to act upon it to the fullest extent that the meaning of the words make possible.

What I am suggesting is that, while we are in effect abolishing our fishing zones as they currently exist, the present government should, since it intends to cover areas like the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Hecate Strait, Queen Charlotte Sound and Dixon Entrance—something which I feel should have been done in 1964—go a step further and consider this proposed amendment to mean that the areas of the sea adjacent to the coasts of Canada for fishing zone purposes be defined as the areas of our adjacent waters extending to the edge of the continental shelf. I touched upon this matter the other morning when the Secretary of State for External Affairs appeared before the fisheries committee and asked for some clarification of the meaning of this bill on that particular point. The minister indicated a restricted approach, that is to say, merely the closing of these areas that I have contended should be inland waters within the fishing zone boundaries.

May I make the plea to him at this time that he give further consideration to what I think he himself is prepared to admit would be a desirable step as far as the realistic management of our fisheries is concerned. Indeed, the Minister of Fisheries has given indication from time to time that he recognizes the necessity for this sort of action. This need for action has certainly become apparent to the commercial fishermen on the west coast of British Columbia as a result of the incursions made by large foreign fishing fleets with their mother ships, supply vessels and so on. If one looks at what other fishing nations have been doing, and if one takes the view that the minister has expressed with regard to the 12-mile limit being well established by international law, then it seems to me that we are well on the way toward being able to uphold internationally the validity of the concept that international law provides for control of fishing areas adjacent to coasts, namely the areas lying above and within the outer boundary of the continental shelf.

This is one of the principal regrets that the members of this party have about the proposed application of this legislation. Indeed, it is one of the reservations that was in the mind of the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) when he spoke on behalf of this party during the introductory stage of Bill C-202 and expressed

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the view, which I have put on the record, that in many respects these are companion pieces of legislation. I hope that before the bill passes and after we have explored the whole question in committee of how important it is to take steps at this time to protect the resources of our seas above the continental shelf, we will be given some declaration by the government of their intention to adopt the principle of fishing zones extending to the outer extremity of the continental shelf. I would be interested to hear the views and comments of the Minister of Fisheries on this aspect of the matter.

• (4:50 p.m.)

He has referred publicly on more than one occasion to the idea of extending our management, particularly over our groundfish stocks, in some such manner as this. As he knows, one of the members of this House who represents a Vancouver Island constituency has put forward a proposal of this nature in a bill. I feel there is growing concern that this Parliament should take this kind of action in order to protect the resources of our Canadian fishermen. It is all very well for the minister to talk about the management of these resources, but I do not think we can take any steps towards the proper management of these resources unless we are prepared to say they lie within our fishing zones. By that I am not necessarily saying we would not continue to recognize existing rights that fishermen from foreign nations may have in some of these areas. We do not take this stand with any desire of altering what may be going on in respect of negotiations for withdrawal of other nations from the Atlantic coast areas that are to be enclosed within the original concept of the fishing zones, but rather to assert our desire that the resources of the seas be properly managed and conserved for the benefit of this and future generations of the human race.

Since up till now we have not been able to get full international understanding in these matters, we feel it is vital that we indicate our desire to accept the responsibility of ensuring that these resources are allowed to survive and thrive, and that they should be harvested only in a manner that is in accordance with proper conservation, primarily for the benefit of our fishermen in Canada, while not refusing to recognize that the fisheries of the world are important to all nations of the world. We are prepared to co-operate with other nations in ensuring that those who need