

the somewhat pathetic action of the government in respect of the Territorial Seas and Fishing Zones Act of 1964. In its brief to the Canadian government on Monday, January 28, 1963, the Fisheries Council of Canada, which represents some 400 fishing companies which process 90 per cent of Canadian fishing products, outlined the fishermen's proposals in these words.

Spokesmen for the fishing industry today urged the federal government to declare a 12-mile fishing limit, shielding Canada's coastal fisheries from damaging exploitation by foreign fleets. They said the need is urgent.

Executives of the Fisheries Council of Canada met with a cabinet committee to present a 2,500 word brief which warned that unless such action is taken important fish stocks will become depleted.

Foreign fishing fleets now may operate to within three miles of the shore.

The brief proposed unilateral adoption of a plan which Canada and the United States jointly sponsored at the second United Nations conference on the law of the sea, held in 1960. This called for a six mile territorial sea and an additional six mile exclusive fishing zone. It was supported by 54 nations but fell one vote short of approval.

"The rapid increase in world fishing effort and efficiency has focused attention on the fact that, unless adequate safeguards are taken, the marine resources that have played such a vital role in the development of the Canadian economy will be harvested by foreign fishing fleets," the brief said.

It cited the recent expansion of Russian and Japanese activity.

Calling for adoption of the twelve mile limit, the brief declares that "unilateral declaration of the government's policy must be followed immediately by active enforcement...and the policing of foreign fishing fleets."

"In the council's opinion, enforcement is absolutely essential if Canada is to maintain her position in world fisheries."

...Its brief suggested that declaration of the new zone take into special consideration the historic rights of France and the U.S. in Canadian national waters. As a first step, negotiations should begin with those two nations to reach a mutual understanding about their rights in an enlarged zone.

In keeping with the terms of the 1960 proposal, any nation whose vessels had made a practice of fishing in the outer six miles of the proposed twelve mile zone for at least five years would have the right to continue fishing that area for another ten years.

But, apart from those special circumstances, foreign fleets would be barred from the exclusive zone. This would permit for the first time an effective program of fisheries management and conservation to preserve the Canadian fishing industry.

An act was passed in 1964 embodying some of the council's proposals, but since that date successive fisheries council presidents have only been able to deplore the lack of action on this important matter by our government.

#### *The Address—Mr. Crouse*

That council met on December 5, 1968 and Mrs. Marie S. Penny of Newfoundland had this to say about the government:

We are not happy about progress on implementing straight base lines, and defining certain bodies of water as Canadian waters or, at the very least, exclusive Canadian fishing zones. We know there are difficulties—but if action is not forthcoming fast many nations which up to now have not had historic rights in many of our waters will have acquired such rights. There is, also, the inevitable danger of this foreign fishing seriously depleting our fish stocks. We need a stiffer government attitude on this question—and we need it now!

Nothing could be clearer than this, Mr. Speaker. In all fairness to this government I must say they made a start in 1967 on geographic co-ordinates and base lines which were drawn from Cape Chidley, Labrador to Cape Ray, and here they stopped. No action has been taken to seal off the gulf of St. Lawrence or the bay of Fundy, two areas where conservation measures could be carried out which would be extremely beneficial to our east coast fishing industry, whose stocks are rapidly being depleted.

I cannot urge too strongly upon the government the necessity of facing up to its responsibilities in this matter, and if this is to be a housekeeping session let us see some action from the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) and the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis). This is a very thorny problem. Let us not only get the broom out, let us get the vacuum cleaner out as well. Let us sweep the cobwebs from this department and get to work in an attempt to establish geographic co-ordinates and base lines. Let us set up areas where conservation measures can be carried out which will be helpful to our Canadian fishing industry.

Finally, if I have a little time left I should like to refer briefly to the speech from the throne and to the Prime Minister's statement regarding NATO and the action he proposes to take.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps this might be a convenient time to interrupt the hon. member and to say that his time has just about expired, unless he has the agreement of the house to continue. Is that agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Crouse:** I would like to say to the Prime Minister, and to the government that I noted from the speech from the throne that they contemplate a review of NATO. I believe a review may be necessary, but I hope this will not result in any change of