

labour. A lot of us did. That is what built this country. Now we find a Department so fat with some \$640 million that it finds it cannot manage the resource and, like its colleague, the Department of National Revenue, it is going to get tough and, all of a sudden, become a hard-fisted manager.

Well, back in 1977 at that committee meeting I asked the West Coast fishery managers repeatedly what they considered their most important function to be. Their answer was that the conservation of the species was their number one priority. They said that the second most important priority was the allocation of those resources among the various participants in the fishery. I asked them what was happening to the herring on the coast. They thought the herring stocks were adequate and were growing. They have been warned for 20 years that the herring stocks were being wiped out. At one time the Department of Fisheries used to allow pit lamping by the commercial vessels in the Gulf of Georgia. They used to set their purse seines around, and when they would close the purse seines and pull them in they would be full of young salmon. It was the fishermen that were screaming about the lack of management of the resource. Eventually pressure from the fishermen built up so that pit lamping no longer occurred.

● (1630)

I have been at the coast where fishery patrol vessels lay alongside in a period of closure, sitting fat and lazy. This is not what the fishermen want. They would rather be up a stream with their chain saws, spending half a day clearing a blockage. There is an attitudinal problem in the management of fisheries on the West Coast. There are very well educated and skilled people in that Department working in my riding in trailers. Because of some status symbol they want to have the wall in their trailer moved over six inches because a guy getting the same pay in another trailer has six inches more space in his office. I have had carpenters come into my riding office literally crying in frustration at what is going on in the Department of Fisheries out there. These are grown men with the talent of using their hands. If they are so fat with money and so idle in terms of what to do with the money, perhaps it is time to thin the operation out.

I will now return to the point which I want to make here. Since 1937, the International Pacific Fisheries Commission operating in the Province of British Columbia has received from both the United States Government and the Canadian Government a total of \$31 million.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Does the rule of relevancy on a motion put by the Hon. Members opposite apply? I am interested in hearing all of this at some appropriate time. I would like to hear some concrete solutions and not a litany of complaint.

Mr. Huntington: Then sit down.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): I would ask the Hon. Member for Capilano to carry on and try to relate his remarks to the subject.

Supply

Mr. Huntington: I certainly am, Sir. The Parliamentary Secretary still has not heard or understood the list of questions asked him by my hon. colleague, the Member for Vancouver South. He has not heard a single thing.

Mr. Tobin: You have not done your homework.

Mr. Huntington: The point is, Sir, that we have a Department which is fat with money. It has some 5,900 allocated person-years. On the West Coast it has some 345 people working out in the field. It has an attitude of bricks and mortar. It does not have an attitude of getting out into the streams and field to really perform the job which is needed. Now they have to slash away at important political issues. They have to throw a fly out on the water and try to get the fish on this side of the House to snap at it.

The International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission is an organization that is absolutely starving for resources. It is being starved by the United States Government and the Government of Canada. It has had \$31 million since 1937. Yet if you read its report, Sir, you will find nothing but an upward curve in the harvest, escapement and return to the beds of the runs for which it is responsible. In its report it points out that, during the period from 1937 to 1982 in terms of the value of the catch in all commercial fishing areas of Fraser fish during the years of the Commission's management of both species, Canadian fishermen had received \$346.6 million for sockeye and \$85.830 million for pink salmon, while United States fishermen had received \$222.525 million for sockeye and \$44.678 million for pink salmon. That shows a wealthy resource being managed well over that period of time with \$31 million.

Engineers in that Commission have spoken to me. They have created gravel beds that allow all of those runs to return. If you read this report you will find that all the escapement is on an upward incline. All their beds are growing. All the harvest the fishermen are catching from the runs they manage is on the increase, except in the Stewart and North Thompson areas where there is a negative factor. In the lower Fraser River, Harrison, Lillooet, Sedan Anderson, South Thompson, Chilcouth and Quesnel, it is startling what those dedicated engineers and biologists have done with \$31.5 million. That is about \$1 million a year. We do not realize how much more they could do if their annual appropriation from this Government were doubled. That would mean about another million dollars per year.

They tell me that we are logging higher and higher on the hills and we get faster runoffs and silt coming down the stream which is silting in the gravel beds. When that happens, the proper procedure is to go in with pumps and people to wash the silt off these gravel beds so they will be ready for the next run. Otherwise, what is in them dies and they are no good for the runs that come back to lay eggs. They have been maintaining these streams all along. They have not got the money to clean a gravel bed that they now find is totally silted.

It is far more important, apparently, to get into a phoney political debate here on a Friday afternoon than to apply