

*Government Organization*

But the mere changing of a department will not cure the problems. The continued changing of names of agencies under departments will not solve them. The solution of our problems in all phases of government activity lies in the use of practical, common, business sense. This is a basic principle that seems to be forgotten in this way-out intellectual age. I refer to action.

I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that many other hon. members will have more to say as Bill C-173 progresses through the various stages. I conclude by repeating my hope that the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry will give this important, new responsibility the attention it deserves, for the benefit of all Canadians.

**Mr. Groos:** Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to take up too much of the time of the committee, because we are only on part I of Bill C-173, the purpose of which is to amalgamate the Department of Fisheries with the Department of Forestry and give the minister the job of handling both fisheries and forestry. Coming from British Columbia, this makes eminent sense to me. I think it will make eminent sense to many British Columbians. I congratulate the minister on his new portfolio and wish him every success in it.

We have heard a fair amount this evening about the commercial fishing industry. I would like to put in a plug for the sports fisherman, since no one has as yet mentioned his part in the industry.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** The minister did.

**Mr. Groos:** Unfortunately, I was not here to hear the minister's remarks. However, I am very pleased to note that he was the first to draw attention to the importance of the sports fishing industry. This industry is particularly important in the province of British Columbia, where the dollar value of the sports industry is so great, when you take into account the fact that the value of the engines and sports equipment used in it far outweighs the net returns from the commercial fishing industry. As we all know, the sports fishing industry is growing and becoming more important all the time.

While on the subject of the sports fishery, I would point out that out west we have in the last few years heard rumours of a possibility that there may be a licensing provision applied to sports fishermen. I hope the

[Mr. Marshall.]

minister will discard this idea very quickly, if it is ever brought to his attention.

**Mr. Davis:** Agreed.

**Mr. Groos:** This sport is one of the few things a man is able to do free these days, namely, to go out in a boat, cast a line out in the ocean and catch a fish. I hope we will be able to do this for nothing, certainly as long as I am a member of this house and the minister is Minister of Fisheries. I trust that the minister will retain the commercial fishing free zones in order to allow the sports salmon to escape from the ocean to the mouths of the rivers in sufficient quantities to replace their stocks as the years go by, thus permitting the sports fisherman a chance to catch these salmon free from commercial fishing operations which in the past have decimated entire runs of salmon in certain rivers. Over the years commercial fishing operations have so depleted the stocks of salmon available to sports fishermen that the annual take per boat has diminished very considerably.

I am very comforted by the action taken over the past couple of years by the minister's predecessor, who permitted commercial fishing free zones. I have noted an increase in the take per boat. In the area of southern Vancouver Island, in particular, this is very heartening to the sports fishermen. I know these people will be 100 per cent behind the minister if he continues, and expands if necessary, the commercial fishing free zones.

● (9:30 p.m.)

I would also like to commend to the minister's attention the development by private industry in co-operation with both the federal and provincial governments of the "plus tree program" which, as you know, is the development of super Douglas fir trees. As I understand it, the program is limited at present to the Douglas fir species, but in my opinion it certainly holds great promise for the future of our province which stands pretty high in the export of forest goods. As all hon. members of the house know, my province also stands very high in fishery products export and production. Of course, this will require continued co-operation among private industry, the federal government and the provincial government. As a conservationist, I am particularly heartened to note the co-operation that has existed and continues to exist between industry, the two senior levels of government and the sports conservation groups, all four