

Supply—Fisheries

Then it goes on to say further down:

Fishing and hunting—among our most popular forms of outdoor recreational use of leisure time—together generate a whopping \$3 billion of business annually. This is only a little less than 1 per cent of the gross national product. Study of the statistics published by the U.S. department of commerce in its survey of current business for July, 1956, yields interesting comparisons. They help interpret the relative importance of this giant new outdoor recreational industry that is so closely dependent upon good conservation of the fishery and wildlife resources.

National outlays for the pursuit of fish and game, totalling \$3 billion, are only a little less impressive than our international trade with the rest of the world. In 1955, for example, the net purchase by the rest of the world from United States business as a whole was approximately \$3.8 billion.

It may be more meaningful to many people to compare the \$3 billion of sportsmen expenditures to federal receipts. Among other federal tax receipts in 1955, the excise tax on liquor amounted to about \$2.8 billion. The tobacco excise tax was considerably less, at nearly \$1.6 billion. All other federal excise tax revenues added up to less than \$5.5 billion. The state and local levels are even closer to home. At these levels income taxes, death and gift taxes, motor vehicle licenses, property taxes, and liquor and tobacco sales taxes must all be combined to reach a total (about \$3.3 billion) . . .

Even all state gasoline sales tax revenues (about \$2.5 billion),—

Which is about half a billion dollars less than what sport fishing is worth to the United States.

There is one other part of this I should like to quote, and this is the part which I think is most interesting to the Department of Fisheries, the third paragraph:

Despite all the attention and help which the (United States) federal government has for many decades granted to our historically-important commercial fishing industry, it remains only half as significant as sport fishing (\$2 billions) to the American economy. According to a recent report by the United States Department of Interior, the ultimate retail value at consumer level of all commercial fish produced by this highly organized, mechanized, and subsidized industry is only slightly in excess of \$1 billion. Though undoubtedly far below its optimum potential as a top revenue produced in ocean areas, all sport fishing is already twice as important as all commercial fishing nationally despite little federal help and much industry discrimination. Already, the value of salt-water angling alone (\$489 millions) is about half that of all commercial fishing, and growing rapidly.

Since then I have seen an article in the press of the United States stating that there are only three species of salt water fish in the United States that produce a greater revenue commercially than they do for sport fishing, so I really believe the time has come when this matter should be given a lot more attention in this country of ours.

There are many other items I should like to read from this report, but I am going to leave it for the attention of the minister, such headings as—"The Hypothetical Angler", "Who Benefits?", "Expanded Research Need",

"Conservation and Politics", "Multiple Use of Water Supplies" and so on. All these things are very interesting, and together with this, when I do give this document to the minister, I should like him to draw to the attention of the Postmaster General the postage stamp used in the United States to bring this matter to the attention of the American people.

There is one other item I wish to touch on very briefly, and the reason I am speaking on so many different branches of the industry tonight is the fact that I will not be here tomorrow, so I should like to cover as much ground as possible before resuming my seat. I realize that this particular matter does not come within the scope of the minister's department, though it does affect the fishing industry. The sick mariners services came into effect at the time of confederation as the result of a protest from the province of New Brunswick about seamen dumped ashore from foreign vessels and then becoming the responsibility of the province. Since that time the service has been broadened to embrace many who were not eligible for benefits under the original plan. Many now engaged in the fishing industry qualify for sick mariners benefits as a result of the amendments to the act over the years. This service provides much needed protection for our fishermen. I have personal knowledge of many cases where these benefits have been of inestimable value when prolonged illness was far beyond the financial capacity of individual fishermen.

This service provides protection for many who could not afford to enter into the ordinary insurance plans; the premiums would be prohibitive for those with small incomes. I was eligible for the benefits of this generous protection for many years. Fortunately, it was not necessary for me to apply for benefits and for this I am most grateful. I have had extensive experience with those fine men who administer this service. Their prompt attention to the individual applications is recognized and appreciated not only by the fishermen but the doctors in all areas where this service applies.

There is one point, however, that should be fully investigated. I would suggest that the Department of Fisheries might lend a hand in the investigation. I refer to insured fishermen living on the international border who are obliged to be in the United States very often where their production is normally sold. In case of accident, or sudden illness, they enter a hospital or call at a doctor's office in the United States, and even though they may be 100 miles from a Canadian doctor, or hospital, their application for benefits will be disallowed by those who administer this act, even though it was an emergency case.