

Fort Erie. They make the famous William's wobbler which is used for catching trout in our northern lakes and streams. Think of the accommodation, the rooms, food and beverages, sightseeing buses, taxis, shops, all of which mean jobs, jobs, jobs to the young people and many of the older people as well. I guess I am amazed, as many Members are, at the middle-aged people who come into my office and who are without jobs. They do not know where to turn and these facilities would provide jobs for many of those people. It is a tremendous industry.

Harbours and breakwaters must be built to protect marinas, and appropriate markings placed for navigation, all of which comes under the purview of the federal Government. Think of the potential for job creation if a serious effort were made to improve the fishery in this province, especially in the Great Lakes; and indeed in the whole of Canada. These onshore facilities are all for nought, however, if a varied and healthy fishery is not present to attract anglers to the improved and expanded facilities I have described. This should include hatchery facilities, equipment and manpower to undertake comprehensive stocking and restocking of our lakes. All this takes money and committed people at all levels of Government. However, the political will to do so is paramount. But that is lacking.

Members will be aware that just last week I posed a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. De Bané), requesting that he identify any new programs which would enhance sports fishing on the Great Lakes. I have as yet to receive an answer. Apparently tourism is not important to the Minister. However, I trust he is giving the idea serious thought. I hope he is, given that we are dealing with a resource of tremendous potential if it is wisely used.

I touched briefly on the environmental aspects of tourism and now I would like to probe the issue from the point of view of the sports fisherman. Have you ever seen the beautiful fish they are pulling from the Great Lakes these days? You probably have not, and I want to tell you they are fun to catch. Many of them are good to eat, but it may be dangerous to eat some of the large ones taken from Lake Ontario because of pollution in the lower Niagara River. This is genuinely sad. It is said that when the white man first came to Canada, he could place a bent needle in a stream and catch a fish almost immediately. Now we find that in some cases we cannot even eat them. The tourism industry and the Minister responsible for tourism must work closely with the environmental Ministry at both federal and provincial levels to ensure that the situation is corrected for my children, my grandchildren and yours. Otherwise, we will be leaving them a sad legacy indeed.

The Niagara River is a case in point. How many honeymooners watching the romantic vista of Niagara Falls have any idea what witches' brew is mixed up in the water beneath the Falls in that great gorge? The trouble is, chemicals from various Love Canal style dumps along the river flow into our precious Great Lakes and end up in the innards of some unsuspecting marine life way downstream. Dioxin, PCBs and a host of other delicacies are finding their way on to people's

Supply

plates. This indeed must stop. I call upon the Minister responsible for tourism to exhort the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Caccia) whom I find to be a caring individual, one who takes his job seriously, to continue his efforts, indeed step them up, to clean up this mess. He should be aware that he has the support of all politicians. There is not a Member in this House who would not agree that we have to clean up that mess.

How can improved sport fishing enhance the tourist industry? It can provide the incentive for American tourists to set their compasses to due north and put an end to the current trend we have been seeing of fewer and fewer non-residents travelling to our country. In 1980, over 40 million non-residents visited Canada. This dropped to 34 million in 1983. In 1983, 1,201 hotels, motels, restaurants and caterers went under. Is it the recession? The Government blames just about everything on that, and undoubtedly some of it is due to the recession. Is it the dollar? We cannot blame it on that because Americans should be coming up here in droves because of the exchange rate. No, I believe our Government is being just plain inhospitable. Our taxes on many items are preposterous.

Therefore I call upon the Government to consider seriously means to improve the situation for visiting fishermen. Briefly, such measures should include, first, the monitoring and preserving of the quality of our air and water; and Second, tax cuts to ensure prices are reasonable. There should be joint federal-provincial meetings to ensure there are solutions to these problems. The third point is improved conservation and enhancement of our fisheries resource. Again, the Government should work hand in hand with the province on restocking to make sure that our lakes have a good supply of fish.

I believe that by pursuing these goals actively we can improve the quality of life not only for visitors, but for those of us who are fortunate to live in this beautiful country with so much potential. We want to sustain that potential and improve it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Questions or comments? Debate.

Mr. Riis: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. During the flow of debate we have a tradition that Members are allocated 20 minutes with a ten minute question period. There is also some effort to balance the speakers to represent equally the Parties' representation in the House of Commons. It now being 5.30, it seems clear to me that as you turn to the Government benches and recognize a government Member, we are going to end this debate with the NDP having spoken once and with Liberals and Conservatives having spoken five or six times each. Using basic mathematics, that seems to me to be rather unfair.

● (1730)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The Chair has to recognize Members as they stand up. I have to agree that the Hon. Member's Party has not put up a speaker for a little while. It is very difficult for the Chair to intervene in such a