

Supply—Fisheries

familiar than I am with the various suggestions advanced from time to time as to the development of the power potential of the Fraser river system; and he has probably seen more than I have of those diagrams showing the Fraser river with a long series of dams and lakes. I am wondering whether his statement means that actually it has now become possible for the full power potential of the Fraser river system to be developed and, at the same time, not interfere with our Pacific coast salmon fisheries.

He made mention of the experience in connection with the Columbia river system. I recall having read some time ago the suggestion that it was discovered in connection with that system that the principal problem was not that of getting the salmon up the stream to spawn as much as it was one of getting the young fish down. As I gathered from the article I read on the subject, when they first made power installations on the Columbia they had not realized that that was going to be the problem it eventually became, or that they were going to lose the young fingerlings as they went through the mill-races of the various power plants.

I am under the impression that some research has been under way in regard to that particular problem, and I would hope that before the discussion is completed the minister would clarify for us as to whether that research has reached the point where we have the techniques which would make it possible, as it is there, to use the full power potential of the Fraser river system and at the same time be assured that our fisheries resources could be preserved.

There is only one other point I should like to mention. I wished the minister might have said something more with respect to the plans he has in mind concerning the recently inaugurated fishermen insurance scheme. I think it is important that some consideration be given to this matter. This is particularly so in the light of the resolution standing in the name of the Minister of Finance in which he proposes amendments to the Income Tax Act which, if they become law, may affect adversely the fishermen's co-operative insurance scheme operating on the Pacific coast at the present time.

Certainly I know, as the minister probably does, that the Pacific Coast Fishermen's Mutual Marine Insurance Company is somewhat concerned about item No. 6 in the resolution where the amendment to the Income Tax Act is proposed. I would suggest that if that particular amendment does go through, and has the adverse effect the organization fears it may have, there may be need for increased consideration to be

[Mr. Barnett.]

given to the extension of the present form of insurance. I realize this is not the place to debate in detail proposed amendments to the Income Tax Act. However I do feel there is a very definite connection in view of the fact that the fishermen on the Pacific coast have themselves developed a co-operative insurance plan to assist in protecting them from loss in connection with their boats and gear.

I believe that concludes all I have to say at the moment.

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Chairman, I must admit this evening that I have not spent much time during this session speaking on behalf of the fishermen in my own riding or in any other part of the country. The reason is that I have more or less left it up to the hon. member for New Westminster who, on a number of occasions has presented various arguments and made pleas on their behalf. I have lent my support to these statements as he has made them on different occasions. This afternoon I too enjoyed very much and benefited very greatly from the speech made by the Minister of Fisheries and I feel that I understand a little better the problems of fishing and fisheries than I did this time yesterday.

I was thinking that there must have come to the minister a sense of satisfaction when he listened to all the verbal bouquets that were handed to him. He has done very well in comparison with some of the other ministers who have preceded him. I fear that some of them did not receive too many bouquets. However, I am reminded of the fact—and I should like to mention this—that when the proposition regarding the closure of the Fraser river above the Pattullo bridge was first advanced I asked two questions on the orders of the day. The first one was, as reported at page 3029 of *Hansard*:

Will the minister state whether or not a decision has been reached with respect to the closure of the Fraser river above the New Westminster bridge to commercial fishing?

At that time the minister replied:

The answer to his question is no. I hope to be able to announce a decision before I meet the fishermen's union in convention next week in Vancouver.

I asked a supplementary question on that same occasion as follows:

Before any such decision is made, will the minister consider the possibility of giving the fishermen in that area one year's notice so they will have an opportunity to dispose of their equipment, if they so desire, and secure a livelihood in some other occupation.

The answer of the minister to that question was that my question was not quite applicable because all they were considering