

interested in hearing him say that we should form a consultative committee and listen to its recommendations.

What I am interested in now, given that this debate was initiated by his Party, is his recommendations. Being involved in the Department, I find that the reality is that on one hand we have a very serious problem. We have conflicting user groups. We have an acknowledged necessity of cutting back on a source available to those conflicting user groups. Everybody is saying, with a wave of the magic wand, let us increase the amount of fish or let us have a consultative committee to give us solutions, and the problem will be solved.

I recognize that I am asking a very difficult question. It is a very tough question. A large group of fishermen will be coming to Ottawa on Monday. I read in the papers that the sports fishery is putting together its own lobby effort. It will come to Ottawa from British Columbia in perhaps the next few weeks. It is not enough to say we are going to cut back on everybody. The reality is that the commercial fishery takes about 90 per cent of the catch and the sport fishery takes from 4 per cent to 5 per cent of the catch.

I ask the Hon. Member how we can make realistic cutbacks on user groups that go some distance toward preserving the salmon stocks and where those cutbacks should be made. That is the question to you. I ask it because I know of your serious interest.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. Questions must always be addressed to the Chair.

**Mr. Fraser:** Mr. Speaker, the Pearse report came down in the autumn of 1982. The Minister's advisory committee worked with the Minister for a year. Recommendations were made. As far as we can find out, those recommendations have not been followed. That should be understood.

With respect to the specific question, the January 5 working paper which we have in front of us starkly points out that chinook catches are declining rapidly, are considered threatened and need a 30 per cent reduction; coho stocks need a 25 per cent reduction in catch and the sockeye catch in some places needs an 18 per cent reduction in catch. I could go on. Those reductions have to be made. In addition, a fleet reduction has to be made. We have gone for two winters, the worst winter since the Depression, and the Department and the Minister have done nothing to get a fleet reduction buy-back going.

Let me be completely blunt in answering the question of my friend. You make those cuts and you make sure that it is understood by every user group why they are being made. They will be accepted. You also have to put into place immediately other policies which give the user groups some hope for the future. At present that is not being done. All that is being done is talking about cuts and fleet reduction. There is no strategy for building the habitat, no strategy for a net gain

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of habitat, no strategy for being able to say in a number of years that if you suffer and accept what we have to put you through now, there will be a better fishery of which you can partake.

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that the people of Canada, after having heard that exchange between the Parliamentary Secretary and the speaker for the Official Opposition, will realize to what extent that Party is a Party bankrupt when talking about ideas, policies and asking tough questions. It was demonstrated again that the only quality the new Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) has been able to generate in his Party is crass political opportunism. We have seen no policies at all, just crass political opportunism. I will give them still another opportunity to declare themselves on something of substance instead of mere, cheap rhetoric. If they sincerely want to make a contribution, I will genuinely listen to their views on the real issues. All they need to do is to state them clearly and unequivocally.

When I say that I sincerely hope that the people of Canada are watching closely, it is so that they will see the vast difference between a Government which has been listening to the people it has been serving, and thus has been reluctant to pre-empt consultation, a Government which has taken a sincere approach to the Pacific fishery, as outlined in the Speech from the Throne, where it was stated unequivocally by the Cabinet that the Pacific fishery will be one of the important actions during this session.

• (1430)

On the other side there is a party so ambitious for power but so bankrupt of ideas and out of touch with the issues that all it can think of is empty posturing. The speech of the Hon. Member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) did not give a hint of what the Conservatives would suggest, which prompted questions from the NDP and questions from this side. After that speech the Tories were pressed for some idea of the direction in which they would go. As you have seen, Mr. Speaker, they are too cowardly and too opportunistic to give any sensible, hard policy options.

Let me clearly and for the public record explode the balloon of the spurious purpose of this debate. For more than a year I have been engaged in consultations with the various sectors of the Pacific fishery. During this time Members opposite, and particularly the Tories, have demonstrated little, if any, concern. Indeed, although my door has been always open, barely one Tory has walked in, and that only recently. But now it is known that a large delegation from the Pacific fishery is coming to Ottawa next week to make their views known and their presence felt on their Members of Parliament they are unable to meet with in British Columbia. It is a shame that representatives of a sector already suffering hardship must