

Supply—Fisheries and Forestry

also be educated to make them understand more fully the importance of that industry.

● (5:20 p.m.)

Above all, I would like to deal with the protection of the rivers. Some people shirk the responsibilities too easily, saying that it is fairly easy to protect or control salmon and trout fishing to an extent of about 75 per cent. Beyond that, what is needed is more human capital, more money and, obviously, the co-operation of the people, especially the people who live in the areas which could become sport centres.

For example, in the province of New Brunswick, it is estimated that salmon fishing brings in approximately \$10 million. In fact, I can give the example of little villages in my region, such as Tabusintac—which hon. members may know—with a population of around 700 or 800 people living exclusively on the tourist trade, that is, from the money spent by Americans or Canadians who go there to fish salmon, build a cottage and, consequently, have to hire people.

People realized, in those places, that, instead of making an immediate profit by destroying the fish, particularly in an illegal way, they should protect their rivers in order to derive a greater income from them.

I should now like to assure the hon. Minister of Fisheries that I am ready to support the long term measures taken by the federal government in order to solve the problems of the fishing industry rather than the short term programs.

In my opinion, we have tried far too long already, not only with regard to fisheries but in other fields as well, to find solutions to problems which would give immediate results instead of making long range plans.

I think that, at the present time, the fishing industry in eastern Canada and in Newfoundland or Nova Scotia faces a dilemma. In fact, when there is no market, we cannot expect that government action will necessarily solve the problem. I think that this problem requires a serious study and I hope that the government program will be realistic and will give some assurance to the fishermen who wish for technological progress and large investments in the fishing industry.

Small fishermen must be told whether or not they will be able to carry on their fishing operations. I think that, because of these short term solutions, government assistance has been inefficient. Assistance was perhaps provided for a month or two, even perhaps

[Mr. Breau.]

for a year, but a guaranteed market for the fishing industry was not developed and this is what matters. When we have an important market which will yield high returns, the fishing industry will be viable.

Mr. Chairman, I have dealt briefly with the inshore fishermen of my area. Several are in a bad fix. They cannot improve their lot, on account of their lack of knowledge or investments. They cannot own big ships or practise offshore fishing. They want to remain small fishermen. I think that this problem should be considered separately from the fishing industry in general. Instead of providing social welfare, I think that it would be advisable for the Department of Fisheries or the government to study the problem of the inshore fisherman in another context.

[English]

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Chairman, I would first like to apologize to the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, if he thought that the Newfoundland members were trying to take up all the time of the committee. This is not our intention, and I can assure him that if he is concerned with problems on the west coast we will support him. I would also like to thank the hon. member for Surrey for his kind words and support.

I rise, Mr. Chairman, to join with my colleagues in attempting to emphasize the critical situation which exists in the Atlantic region regarding the fishing industry. I do not intend to repeat the technological implications or to quote statistics. These were very ably offered by previous speakers.

What I would like to do is to try with sincerity and respect to point out the human problems which exist among the fishermen population of my province, and which will result from the present crisis, because of mismanagement, apathy, neglect and a lack of a common sense approach to an industry which could be prospering today, but instead is disappearing.

With each passing day as I sit in the House of Commons, the more frustrated and disillusioned I become at the lack of sincerity that is so evident on the part of government with regard to the problems of the country. What amazes me is how a group of individuals, who are supposed to be the ones most capable of solving our problems, are instead compounding them. I fail to understand how a government, with supposedly the most capable brains in the country at its command, cannot provide the leadership required to