

Commercial Fisheries Development

our time in referring to the various proposals contained in it.

• (9:50 p.m.)

Mr. Kindt: Mr. Chairman, because I did not realize the scope that is covered by this bill I omitted to mention one point of which I have since been reminded. In Alberta we have three national parks along the Rocky Mountain area, at Waterton Lakes, Banff and Jasper. Those parks are tourist areas. I know that the federal government takes care of the fisheries in these parks but I know, too, that in between the parks there are many, many mountain streams and campsites. Tourists go to the streams between the parks and participate in sport fishing. I know that the province is supposed to stock these streams, but there is a tremendous drain on the fish in the streams.

The complaint of the tourist is that he fishes and catches nothing. He also complains about the same thing in the national parks. He will come out of these areas and say they are fished out. One could pass this off as a joke and say that the tourist is not using the right kind of fishing outfit, the right kind of flies, etc. But if we are to take care of fishing in this country and, with the provinces, button up the regulations, let us make it all-inclusive; let us see that the provinces carry out sufficient restocking programs so that fish are available to tourists. The tourist industry produces the second or third largest revenue to this country and we are doing nothing about the industry, except with regard to the national parks.

Even the national parks are deficient in this respect because the streams in the parks do not contain a sufficient number of fish. The Minister of Fisheries should be talking to the managers of our national parks and if necessary buttoning up some projects so we can bring more tourists into this country and make them happy when they get here. I think it is his duty to do this, and would hope that under this act he would feel free to make every effort to discuss this question with his colleagues, and if necessary with the province of Alberta with regard to streams surrounding the parks which are under the jurisdiction of that province. I ask the minister how far he anticipates his authority will go under this act, and whether he intends to confine it to the seashores and not come inland to do a job where there is a job to be done.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, a few minutes ago the hon. member for Fraser Valley suggested that I had injected a partisan, political

[Mr. Herridge.]

note into the discussion. I thought I was being very restrained and factual in what I had to say. However, I would like to make clear to the member for Fraser Valley and the committee that I am not one of those people who consider the Premier of British Columbia and his government to be like some great god on high that is beyond and above any criticism.

The hon. member for Fraser Valley made some reference to elections. He may have some information that I have not. I do know there are one or two provincial elections around in the country, but as far as I know there is not any election in the province of British Columbia. I would like to point out to the committee and perhaps expand somewhat, in view of what the hon. member for Fraser Valley said, on why I am concerned about the question of fisheries development in British Columbia, and what is and what is not being done about it.

I am concerned that at the present time the province of British Columbia is, relatively speaking, falling behind some of the other provinces in Canada in respect of the growth of its fishery. In fact, according to the last figures I have seen, the landed value of the fish caught by the fishermen of the province of Nova Scotia is now ahead of that of the province of British Columbia. I would point out that as I understand it the constitutional jurisdiction of the federal government in respect of fisheries is exactly the same in the province of British Columbia as it is in every other province in Canada.

What I am concerned about and tried to draw attention to is that at a time when, relatively speaking, the fishery of British Columbia is falling behind, according to the evidence I have the only province that seems to be making noises about questions, and finer points of constitutional jurisdiction, is British Columbia. This is at a time when apparently on the Atlantic coast there is increasingly a measure of co-operation in joint projects and ventures between the federal authority and provincial governments in regard to fisheries expansion.

As I say, Mr. Chairman, the government of British Columbia and the standing committee of that legislature, as can be seen from its report, are concerned about quibbling over constitutional jurisdiction. I would remind the hon. member for Fraser Valley that according to the figures I have in respect of the budget of the government of British Columbia for 1965-66, out of a total budget