

*Supply*

accept as a first principle that the fishery as an industry should be, and can be, economically viable, then it makes sense for us as managers, and all of those involved, to try to structure an industry which will allow people who participate in it to make a living, and not merely to have put 100 per cent of their energies and time into an exercise which gives them not enough return to make a decent living and to retain some integrity, Mr. Speaker. That is all I mean, nothing more sinister, and nothing more sinister than that should be read into my remarks.

● (1620)

**Mr. Miller:** Mr. Speaker, the Parliamentary Secretary will be aware that Members of the Official Opposition and the NDP are the only elected Members in the House of Commons representing fishermen in British Columbia. He will also be aware that we have been attempting for some time to get more involvement in decision making. His Government is using public resources to prepare studies and documentation prepared for the Minister and the Minister's Advisory Council. Would he be in favour of making that documentation available to Members of the Opposition so that we can have access to the same material that the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary have in trying to sort out the fishing industry?

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister said earlier, in response to a question from the same Member, that he would look into the advisability, in consultation with Members of the MAC itself, who are today looking at a number of proposals, of making that information available to Members of the Opposition. I would endeavour to do the same as far as I can.

**Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment my colleague, the Hon. Member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser), our official spokesman for fisheries on the West Coast. In my opinion he has done an excellent job and has served, not just his Party and caucus well on that subject matter, but the nation as a whole. I compliment him on his deliberation and intensity in that regard.

I want to take this opportunity to put on the record a few things of concern to me. The Parliamentary Secretary has been quite vociferous, and if I may say so, Mr. Speaker, vicious, in his attack and in apparently trying to draw us out and make us look as if we were bankrupt of policy. I was very pleased when my colleague from Vancouver South asked the series of questions of the Parliamentary Secretary that he did, because it is obvious that the Government does not listen to anything that is said of a constructive nature in the House.

I stand here, Mr. Speaker, in a place which 65 per cent of Canadians say is not relevant. We have the ability to talk in this place, but a very, very limited ability to listen, analyze and enter into good constructive debate. This subject matter is terribly important to those of us who come from the coastal areas of British Columbia. In fact, it is important to all Canadians, not just those of us on the coast. I am very pleased to hear that both the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary are well aware of the very good brief presented on the

economics and opportunities of the sport fishery on the coast, because that is a very valuable part of life in B.C. It has many spin-offs for the boat-building industry, boat repair, fishing tackle manufacturing, the retail industry generally, lodges and guides. The sport fishery is a very valuable industry if we want to do anything about jobs and the maintenance of a standard of living of which we can be proud.

In my questions previously, Mr. Speaker, I drew to the attention of the Minister the fact that the latest Estimates show his Department is now at a budget level of \$632.565 million. Of that amount there is some \$15 million or \$16 million in capital outlay proposed for the building of four salmon enhancement projects. Before I get into that, Mr. Speaker, I want to go back to a meeting of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry in 1977. I have photocopies of the sections we are dealing with when officials from British Columbia were in Ottawa and we were examining them concerning the West Coast fishery. Prior to that time I had been gathering in my travels up and down the coast a collection of comments and concerns about the fact that we were neglecting the protection of the species. There were areas in B.C. where you could go in and jig for herring to use as bait, or you could clean and fillet them, fry them and have a beautiful dinner. These areas have been completely wiped out of herring. When the herring disappear from the Gulf of Georgia, the salmon that enter the Gulf to return to their spawning grounds lose much of the food that fattens them into large, healthy fish for the gill-netters off the rivers in that area. There was a concern that in areas where you used to be able to fish for a ling cod, you could no longer find them. They were so short of food with the lack of herring in that area that they were forced to eat their own young. The management and protection of the species started to grow as a really serious concern to many of us who live on the coast, know and love it.

You might not know it, Mr. Speaker, but in my early university days I used to be a gill-net fisherman on the Fraser River. I have been fishing up and down the coast. Boating is a hobby of mine and I know the coast all over. I spend the summers tied up along side fishery patrol vessels, and sometimes they tie up alongside of me. So I have an intense and personal feeling and love for the coast, for the industry, the fishermen, and concern for the problems they have. There is no doubt that there is too much capital equipment on the West Coast of Canada in the fishery. We keep hearing from this Department of the federal Government which has this \$632,565 million that it has to do something about the management of the resource on the West Coast because the stocks are depleting at a compound annual rate of 1.5 per cent. Its trouble, Sir, is that the Department is too fat with money. We hear about youth programs and hundreds of millions of dollars being delivered into temporary make-work programs to help the youth overcome this tragic period of unemployment. My God, Sir, I lived through that era back in the thirties. We found work. We found ways to survive. We found ways to get an education. We were not relying on anyone to give it to us. We went out and worked with our hands, hard sweat, menial