

*Government Orders*

Those people cannot do surveillance, they cannot do enforcement, they cannot do proper habitat protection, they cannot do stream clearing, they cannot do proper counts. It is important that there be a guardian program so that it can be extended at critical times. It is going ahead. What we really need in this House are not the stupid remarks that are made by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans about what the Reform Party policy or the Quebec bloc's policy is on the aboriginal fisheries strategy, but what he is doing with extremely limited resources in the Public Service to protect the valuable Pacific fisheries resource.

I am absolutely sick of the kind of thing that is going on in this House where, instead of providing information to the public of Canada, he is playing the fool in the House of Commons by failing to give those people the understanding of what he is doing and the kind of resources he is prepared to put in place to protect the Pacific fisheries resources. It is the same with the House leader being a smart ass here this afternoon by failing to deal with this critical issue.

We need that presentation by the minister. I do not think there is another option for the aboriginal fisheries strategy. You either have a fisheries agreement by agreement or you have fisheries by chaos. That appears to be the line taken by the Supreme Court of Canada, which this House cannot overturn.

There need to be agreements. If aboriginal people are prepared to put interim agreements together until proper consultation and full fair involvement of all stakeholders occurs, we are prepared to support that. In the meantime, we are getting no guarantee that that valuable resource is protected. They almost lost it in the previous year.

I see time is drawing to a close. There is no need to lose the fishery. If we could get the proper resources and the assurance from the minister that the government is not just going to continue to cut out fisheries officers but it will put those kinds of resources in place, I think people's minds would rest easier. They would be more able to accept the kind of major structural and operational changes that are going on. In fact, politically this government would stand to win instead of losing continuously.

Hopefully the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans will see the wisdom and the merit in coming before this House and sharing the information, not only with other members of Parliament who are willing to hear him out and support moves that would protect that resource, but with the people of Canada, giving them a fair shake on his fulfilling his responsibility and this government's responsibility to the protection of that resource.

**Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, before offering a question to my hon. colleague, I would like to just briefly say that I understand it is your intention, sir, not to seek re-election. I would like personally to say how much I have enjoyed the time I have spent in this House when you have been in the Chair and how much I wish you well in the coming years.

With that bit of brown-nosing, Mr. Speaker, let me first of all say that I found the—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

• (1625)

**Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East):** I would like to thank the hon. member for North Island—Powell River for his erudite and informative comments over the last 20 minutes. Clearly his grasp of the fishery and the problems besetting the fishery, especially as those problems relate to the continuing incorrigible actions of the federal government, can be bested by no one in this House.

At the commencement of his remarks he made a couple of statements that I found particularly compelling, having to do with the record of previous Liberal administrations. He mentioned in particular the six and five program of the early 1980s. That got me thinking and sent my mind back even further to the so-called anti-inflation program of the mid-1970s.

I remember at that time literally hundreds of thousands of people from coast to coast rallying against those particular policies. I remember the famous day of protest when literally hundreds of thousands of Canadians were out on the streets from coast to coast. I seem to remember at that time that among the things most vigorously protested were the actions of the federal Liberal government in literally grinding down the Public Service of the time.