

*Supply—Fisheries*

items if there are further questions. The hon. member for Charlotte raised the question of the management of salmon for sport fishing in his riding. Of course, the hon. member is aware, I am sure, that fisheries, as far as sport fishing in inland waters is concerned, are the responsibility of the provincial governments with respect to the leasing of streams and that sort of thing, and, also that the attraction of tourists to the sport is primarily a provincial responsibility. However, the department has an advisory committee, the Atlantic salmon co-ordinating committee, which has representatives on it from the five most easterly provinces, together with advisers from associations interested in sport fishing.

The hon. member for Charlotte, also the former minister, the hon. member for Coast-Capilano, and the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate all raised the question of our markets for fish in the United States and the importance of these markets. This is not a matter which comes strictly under the jurisdiction of this department, and it would more properly be discussed on the estimates of the Department of Trade and Commerce. I do realize, of course, the interest of all those concerned with the fisheries in this matter and I am very much aware of the importance of the United States market. I can assure hon. members that I will take every precaution to see that our market there is not curtailed in any way, and the department, together with the Department of Trade and Commerce, is exploring every means possible of increasing the market for Canadian fish in the United States.

It should not, I think, be forgotten that there is a great imbalance of trade between Canada and the United States in favour of the United States and that efforts to lessen this huge imbalance can hardly, in all fairness, be looked upon as grounds for reprisal by the United States against Canada. Nevertheless, we do realize that in the case of fishery products the United States market is an extremely important one, and with a view to preserving that market, as well as other markets, for Canadian products, and for removing any misunderstanding whatsoever in trade relations between Canada and the United States, there is frequent consultation between the two governments. A committee at cabinet level of the two countries has already met with regard to this question. I feel sure the misgivings and fears of hon. members in this regard are unfounded.

Several members of the committee raised a question which is commonly known as the fish versus power controversy. The hon. members for Coast-Capilano, Fraser Valley,

Nanaimo and New Westminster all mentioned this subject. It is, of course, a very important question, and I should like to say in this regard that it is my intention to safeguard in every way the interests of the fishing industry. The Fisheries Act provides considerable power for the minister under section 20, I believe, and wider powers still for the governor in council under section 34.

We realize very vividly the great importance of the fishing industry especially when looked on as a long-range proposition, since this industry is one that can regenerate itself indefinitely if it is properly managed and conserved, whereas it may well be that the problem of providing more power especially from hydro sources is a passing one. There is a tendency in this direction already; there is a large thermal plant in the planning for the Vancouver area which will remove some of the pressure in this regard, and as time goes on other sources of power may be developed which will remove this threat to the fisheries completely. We hope that this will be the case. Failing that, there is a possibility—a lesser one, I think—that means can be found of having both fish and power on the same stream, but in large developments where a series of dams would be required there is little likelihood of this being achieved in the near future.

The hon. member for Fraser Valley and the hon. member for New Westminster also brought up the question of restrictions on fishing above the Pattullo bridge. This is a matter which is under active consideration. There are a great many factors which have to be considered and carefully weighed, but it is hoped that well in advance of the next fishing season regulations can be devised which will be reasonably acceptable to all concerned and which will at the same time protect the resources in that area.

The hon. member for Fraser Valley and, I believe, the hon. member for New Westminster also raised the question of the possibility of Canadian investment in the Japanese fishing fleet. We have no knowledge whatsoever which would lead us to believe that there is the slightest truth in this suggestion. We have no information which would lead us to that conclusion, and no reason to believe that it is the case.

The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate mentioned the importance of the market in the British West Indies to the Canadian fishing industry. This is especially true of salt cod, and I thank him for bringing this matter to our attention, though we are very much aware of the importance of this market. However, once again, this is primarily