

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

Saint John Harbour an extra day or two as the season progresses.

I want to interject that as far as pollution is concerned, this has been going on in Saint John Harbour. It is nothing new. The few salmon caught in the harbour will not affect the anglers or conservation up-river. I make this humble plea on a Friday night in the hope it will be heard by someone who can protect these fishermen who are doing the best they can for the economic life of our community.

**Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council):** When the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell) raised this matter in a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) on Tuesday, the minister replied as follows:

Mr. Speaker, there will be restrictions to two days for both sports fishing and commercial fishing for salmon in the areas the hon. member has mentioned. This is to permit greater escapement of salmon from the Saint John River which, I might add, is in a desperate condition so far as salmon spawning is concerned.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the Saint John River is in a desperate condition as far as salmon spawning is concerned. In fact, the future of the salmon fishery in the entire river is in great jeopardy. It is for this reason that the action was taken to restrict both the commercial fishery and angling for salmon to two days each week between the opening date of May 15 and until an adequate escapement of salmon for spawning purposes has been obtained, or July 12, whichever occurs the earlier.

I should point out, Mr. Speaker, that if the Department of Fisheries and Forestry has assurance that adequate salmon spawning stock has escaped or will likely escape before July 12, then the department will certainly be prepared to increase the fishing time beyond the two days a week. This is in line with the hon. member's request.

Natural runs of adult salmon and grilse to the upper reaches of the Saint John River system have been declining rapidly during recent years. The counts of salmon through the Beechwood Dam, 85 miles up-river from Mactaquac have dropped from a record 8,334 salmon in 1963 to 1,210 in 1966 and to only 64 last year.

The natural escapement past Mactaquac in 1967 was very limited and the spawning escapement came almost completely from a total of 1,223 salmon and grilse trucked from

[Mr. Bell.]

below Mactaquac and released upstream. Last year Mactaquac Dam formed a complete obstruction to natural upstream passage and the total escapement above the dam of 1,116 salmon and grilse was obtained by trucking the fish.

The spawning grounds upstream from Mactaquac can support as many as 10,000 to 12,000 spawners and from this there could be a take of 2,000 to 3,000 by the anglers. The 1968 run to the Mactaquac collection facilities totalled only about 2,000 fish, around half of which were taken for hatchery brood stock purposes. It is felt that for 1969 serious efforts should be made to allow 5,000 to 6,000 salmon and grilse to reach the Mactaquac collection facilities. Approximately 1,000 would be used in the hatchery; the remainder would be trucked upstream to provide for natural spawning and some angling.

If this action is not taken immediately, salmon fishing on the entire Saint John River system in the 1970's could be eliminated entirely.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—COURTENAY, B.C.  
—INAUGURATION OF CARRIER SERVICE

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** I asked the Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans) when he would inaugurate letter carrier delivery service in the city of Courtenay which now qualifies under the rules. In his reply the minister said something about doing this when the freeze is lifted. I asked him, why the freeze?

I feel this question is not redundant even after yesterday's debate. The minister did not come to grips with this or any other aspect of the policy of administration of his department. I must admit I have seldom heard a minister sustain a more prolonged and bruising attack than that delivered yesterday. There were moments when I almost felt sorry for him; however, I did feel the attack was justified. It was a natural reaction against what I would describe as the meat axe techniques being used by the minister in respect to the way in which postal services are being carried on in this country.

I think the feeling of shock and dismay which many members and citizens have experienced was typified by the rather whimsical fashion in which the hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan) launched his attack against the minister. It symbolized some of the shock and dismay which many of us felt about the course of action being pursued by the minister. I had not known the