

Supply—Fisheries

I hope all other hon. members representing riparian ridings will also make their views known on this situation.

[*English*]

Mr. Noble: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to assure the minister that my remarks will not be too long. Only a few members of the house are interested in the Great Lakes fishery, and I feel during consideration of the estimates some matters with respect to the fresh water fisheries should be mentioned. I am mainly interested in the Georgian bay and lake Huron area.

The Great Lakes fisheries are under the jurisdiction of the provincial government. However, I know the federal government, in co-operation with the United States, are supporting the International Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, and anything of an international nature is considered by this body.

It is in respect to the area around Georgian bay and lake Huron that I am seeking information. The waters I speak of have been depleted of lake trout for a long time, and we all know that this was a result of the invasion of the sea lamprey which destroyed the lake trout. The program of lamprey control has been in operation for quite a number of years, but I would ask the minister to bring the committee up to date on what progress has been made in this regard. What is the government's contribution to this program, what will be the total amount spent by the International Great Lakes Fisheries Commission for 1967, and will the operation this year be concentrated in any specific area?

● (8:30 p.m.)

In other words would the minister like to speculate on how soon trout stocks can be introduced to lake Huron with some hope of successful propagation? I would ask the minister, does he have information about the successes of splake plantings? This operation has been under way for some time in conjunction with the International Great Lakes Fisheries Commission and we have heard little about it. The fishermen in my area would like to have up to date information on this project.

I should mention to the minister that several years ago, as he knows, I promoted the introduction of sockeye salmon or kokanee, to the great lakes. With the co-operation of the premier of Ontario and one of his chief research workers we successfully introduced kokanee into Georgian bay and lake Huron. Perhaps the minister already knows this, but we were successful in having kokanee come

up to spawn, at 18 months of age. They were not expected before three years of age. On this project we are being kept up to date. Because of that I wish the minister could tell us what progress is being made on other programs I have mentioned. From the information I have had from the International Great Lakes Fisheries Commission I have learned that they are promoting splake in preference to kokanee even though the kokanee is showing more signs of success than is the splake. If the minister could answer those questions I should be well satisfied.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): I wish briefly to bring up a matter which I have discussed with the minister. In the house on many occasions I have mentioned salmon fishing. When the estimates were before the house last the minister replied extensively about what his department was doing and I was well satisfied with the answer—though I hasten to interject that no matter what is done, it is never enough.

We are faced on the Saint John river with another dam. Regardless of how optimistic we may be it will change the habits of the salmon. Provision is made for the protection of the salmon and we are hoping that this will be of benefit. The pollution of the Saint John river also is becoming worse. The hon. member for Victoria-Carleton the other day referred to this matter.

I should prefer to discuss later the matter of the new licensing policy for the salmon net fishermen in Saint John harbour, but since this may be my only opportunity for some time I wish to place on record briefly one or two thoughts in mind.

I understand from information that has been given to me by the department that in April of this year a new policy was enunciated by the minister with respect to the licensing of salmon fishermen in certain areas of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. This new policy comes under the authority of the old regulations; there is nothing legislatively new about it. I am interested in it, and I think we are all interested in conservation. Though we must be careful to protect our resources I do not know how much notice the fishermen received of the new policy. I know that the new salmon restrictions were published extensively, but I wonder how many of the actual fishermen, those who are engaged in the activity covered by the regulations, knew of the policy? They must be made aware of it for the policy to be effective quickly.