

● (2.00 p.m.)

Mr. K. C. LUCAS (*Director, Resources and Development, Department of Fisheries*): Mr. Chairman, I think probably in this document which was tabled by the research board people in answer to Mr. Howard's earlier question should have had the word "serious" inserted here in this last line. But, the situation is that in the disposal of pulp mill effluents in the sea, the dilution by tidal influence is being used to disperse these effluents so they become non-toxic and do not have great local oxygen demands. When the first salt water pulp mill was proposed at Port Alberni, a large hydraulic model was constructed at the Nanaimo biological station of the research board by the oceanographers to attempt to predict the rate of dilution in that harbour, and I think this covered the reference which was first made here. Because, of many of the things which were learned on that large hydraulic model, these results have been applied to many of the other coastal pulp mills. It is true that at the pulp mill in Prince Rupert, the Port Edward mill, there have been some local areas around the mill outfall there which have been causing us problems. In the negotiations with the company concerning the expansion which is presently under way at that mill we have been successful in having the company adopt measures which will reduce a level of pollution below that which existed before the expansion by the introduction of more washers into the system and that sort of thing. Again, we make our best estimate before these mills are built to try and provide a clean situation but, in many cases, even our scientists can be wrong, and there are local areas around some of these pulp mills, particularly the one at Port Edward, where there have been pollution problems. But, they are areas of pollution and they are not affecting important fisheries.

Mr. HOWARD: If the word "serious" had been inserted in there, it would have made it easier to accept.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Chairman, we could amend that to include the word "serious".

The CHAIRMAN: On page 1, the last line, "in consequence there is no serious pollution problem for these installations."

Mr. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, we cannot amend a document presented by another body. We have to accept it and argue about it.

The CHAIRMAN: I am just noting that we are not amending it, I am merely commenting that this should be his insertion. We are not amending his document, Mr. Howard.

Mr. HOWARD: I am sure the Fisheries Research Board or no one else looks upon us to correct their omissions.

The CHAIRMAN: This is Mr. Lucas' own insertion.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Chairman, I think I as the Minister am responsible for this report. After all, I take the responsibility to accept the remarks that were made to the effect that it would be more proper to add the word "serious".

Mr. HOWARD: I accept that, no question about it.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Howard, are you through yet on that item.

Mr. HOWARD: No, there are two or three other matters in this same document.