

Supply—External Affairs

gas and other energy sources. We have some difficulties at the present time in connection with forest products and this kind of material. It all fits into the big picture.

I just want to express my disappointment that the minister, a year after, in a sense, putting this whole idea on the top level, has not got any more to suggest or offer than this. It indicates to me that maybe he is too much involved in the problems of Laos, Cambodia, the Congo and things like that.

An hon. Member: And Indonesia.

Mr. Fisher: Yes, and Indonesia; certainly Indonesia. He is not being nearly enough concerned about what seems to me the most important of all the bread and butter issues of external affairs; that is our relationships, diplomatic and economic, with the country that shares this continent with us. I am not going further with this point; I just wanted to remind the minister that if he and I both survive into the next parliament I propose to raise this same question with him, if he should survive his particular position. I hope by then he will have something a little more positive to say about what the government has done in this regard.

An hon. Member: Whether he survives is very "iffy".

Mr. Fisher: Someone has suggested that is a very "iffy" question. Yes, I imagine it is; although it is only fair to say—this has nothing to do with external affairs—that in so far as the sun porch has its influence on lower Michigan, it is very hard for us to conceive of the minister disappearing from the Windsor scene. I think this is not such a bad point to bring up right now, because I may say to the minister that in all the time he has been involved in these great affairs of the world, dealing with great statesmen like Dean Rusk and Mr. Couve de Murville and all these other people, those of us who follow his intimate and domestic political career know he has never lost a chance to make a phone call to Windsor and get in touch with his many constituents. We know he has one of the largest mails going out of here to Windsor.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, could we discuss the item under consideration?

Mr. Fisher: I am discussing the item. We come down to the fact that the minister—it is a point I had not thought of until it was raised by a person over here—has time for all these things far distant from Canada and

[Mr. Fisher.]

for all these domestic affairs in Windsor, and I think he might follow up a little more constructively than he appears to have done the great suggestion he put on the record last year. I must find the date of that speech.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I will get the date for you.

Mr. Fisher: We will try to make it as important a term of reference as his speech of May 22.

Mr. Nasserden: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister could tell us whether he has any report to make on the progress of the studies of water pollution as provided in the items under vote 40.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): What was the last part of the question?

Mr. Nasserden: Whether there is any report on the progress of the studies with regard to boundary waters pollution.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): There has been a reference made to the commission with regard to pollution in the great lakes. On October 7 the governments of the two countries requested the commission to conduct an investigation of pollution in lake Erie, lake Ontario and the international section of the St. Lawrence river, and to make recommendations to the two governments in this problem. This is, of course, a long study.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, I would have thought the minister would have spoken at some length on this question of pollution which has been raised by the hon. member for Rosthern. This is a problem of great importance. I have always found the minister able to use a great many words when the occasion demands. To conceal thought he uses words. Indeed, as I listened to him from time to time I am reminded of someone in the United States Senate who described the tongue of a certain senator as being like a race horse; the less load it carries the faster it goes. I could not have thought of a better description of the minister, and when I noted that that expression had been used in the United States Senate I thought it should be appropriated here in the House of Commons.

Surely the minister is in a position to say more than he has said in those few words. This problem is one of the most serious facing our country. It also affects Windsor, to which fleeting reference was made a moment ago by the hon. member for Port Arthur. I should like to have a report from the minister in this connection. Certainly the expenditure