

territorial government to set up Canada's first wildlife range. This resolution was passed at the international conference recently held at Whitehorse. It called for the allocation of 600,000 acres of wild range as an adjunct to the 1,000,000 acres established by the U.S. government in Alaska back in 1961. This is a matter for federal interest and action.

This is just one example of the type of study that could be made by the committee for the purpose of making recommendations to other members of the House of Commons. I am not going to carry on any longer. When I started I quoted from a national publication. I should like to conclude by quoting from a provincial publication. This is the most recent issue of *Wildlife Review*, which is published by the Department of Recreation and Conservation of the government of British Columbia. The last paragraph of the editorial on page 3 reads:

We have not much time left in which to learn to proportion our population to available resources, and to become good enough trustees of our inherited wealth of air, water, earth and forests so that posterity may hope to survive in a condition better than a bestial struggle.

May I say that the birds, the animals and the fish also are interested in posterity. They also have a claim on the inherited wealth of the air, water, earth and the forest but they cannot do very much for their own survival. We, the people of Canada, and the parliamentarians can do something about this and we must. That is why I say that if we, as Members of Parliament, will only recognize that we have a responsibility to those who come after us to pass on a heritage that is richer and more full because it passed through our hands, we will pass this motion so the subject can be studied by a standing committee of this House.

**Mr. Tom H. Goode (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta):** Mr. Speaker, I might point out at this time that as a result of a private member's bill I introduced last session the name Delta has just been mentioned in this House for the first time. I express on behalf of the 44,000 people who now live in Delta the pride they feel in knowing that their home is now officially recognized by name in Parliament.

The intent of this motion is highly desirable and it is one that I heartily support. I support it particularly as it relates to the special responsibilities that the Department of Fisheries and Forestry has in regulating and controlling the sealing industry of the Atlantic region. These responsibilities involve two areas of paramount concern; the conservation of the seal herd and the development and implementation of the most humane harvesting methods. It is significant, I think, that the recommendation for a committee to study, report on and make recommendations concerning the use, harvesting and conservation of animal wildlife has already been carried out in so far as the Atlantic seal herds are concerned. I am referring to the harp seals and the hooded seals.

Last year the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry conducted an exhaustive study on the whole

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subject of these seal herds and the sealing operation. It examined the manner in which the seals are harvested and the conservation measures in effect. It scrutinized as well the legislation applicable to the sealing industry.

The committee heard evidence from many persons involved with the seal fisheries. It heard evidence from senior officials of the fisheries service of the Department of Fisheries and Forestry, from scientists and from persons directly concerned with the administration of the sealing regulations. It examined also Canada's severely damaged reputation abroad. Finally, the committee recommended that the seal hunt continue in the Gulf of St. Lawrence under continuing safeguards as to prevention of cruelty and preservation of the herds.

● (5:20 p.m.)

To reiterate, the recommendation for a House committee study of our animal wildlife, in so far as the Atlantic seals are concerned, has already been carried out. However, I do not intend to imply that the department has stopped there in studying and developing management methods for the seal herds and the sealing operations. In fact, during the past year several new regulations were added to those already in effect. A brief review of the evolution of the regulations respecting the seal hunt would, I think, be in order. Although the seal herds have been hunted since the eighteenth century by coastal residents and commercial interests, partly for food but primarily for fur, there were relatively few regulations prior to 1964. During and following that year, several factors contributed to very rapid changes and additions to the regulations. These factors, not necessarily in order of importance, were: the increasing take of seals by foreign sealing vessels as well as our own; evidence produced by the scientists of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada that the seal stocks were being over-exploited; the use of aircraft in sealing; and a large-scale international controversy over the humane aspects of sealing.

In 1964, as a preliminary measure, sealing vessels and aircraft engaged in sealing were licensed by the Department of Fisheries. Subsequently, the department, in consultation with the industry and with humane and conservation society representatives, developed a new set of sealing regulations for the Atlantic coast for the 1965 season. Open and closed seasons for operations from ships and aircraft were retained as before and new control measures were introduced. For the first time a quota was imposed; it applied to the southern portion of the Gulf of St. Lawrence—the main whelping area—where the take of young harp seals by ships and aircraft was limited to 50,000. Scientific research had shown that up to 90,000 young harp seals could be taken in the entire gulf without endangering the survival of the herd. Since 1965, the gulf harvests, including commercial and landmen's catches, have generally been well within the safety margin. The taking of hooded seals, whose numbers were very low, was banned in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Also, the taking of adult seals from whelping and breeding patches was prohibited.