

The Address—Mr. Skelly

ongoing basis that some areas cannot be mined or logged without destroying a resource that should last forever.

These are the positions that we take and that the other Parties in the House have failed to take. It is one thing to talk about peace and harmony and say that everything will be fixed up after the next election, but we should be talking tough to logging companies and mining companies and telling them that there are areas they cannot penetrate and where they must co-operate with other resource users to ensure the preservation of the resource.

As my time is running short I will not be able to go into detail on the salmon enhancement programs which are virtually important to the whole critical question of management of the West Coast fisheries resource. In these last two minutes I should like to deal with that matter. There is no confidence in what the Government is doing, and that is unfortunate because in a forthright, honest and fair manner, and by restructuring the way decisions are made on West Coast fisheries, the Government could win back some confidence if it put a better management system in place. There must be a resource management board that is elected from user groups. By consensus and consultation it should develop a management plan. It is no longer acceptable for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to be the sole authority for gathering data or for the development of management plans. Before any fishery policy can succeed there must be some commitment on the part of the user groups in the communities that depend on it. Something the Government could do in every one of these issues is to put an effective consultation and consensus mechanism in place.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, in my part of the country there is a Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation which conducts research and marketing for the sale of fish and products in different parts of the world. I wonder if a similar mechanism exists for the sale of fish on the West Coast. Also, could the Hon. Member tell me if, in any of the proposals he has made with regard to resource management and marketing, there is a mechanism to ensure that fishermen have a voice? One of the problems with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is that the fishermen really do not have a voice on the board. Most of the people on the board are appointed by the various governments and, as a result, are not responsible to the fishermen. I wonder if the Hon. Member could respond to that?

Mr. Skelly: Mr. Speaker, the question was brilliant and insightful. It bears on excellence—it definitely was an excellent question. What I would like to do is to point out that there is a considerable difference in the problems faced by freshwater fishermen and the West Coast fisheries and their approach to marketing the product. We have, over the years, been extremely concerned about the dominance of a small number of powerful corporations. British Columbia Packers is an example of a multinational corporation with tremendous control over the fleet and the processing and marketing. It virtually borders on a monopoly situation.

● (1600)

We have called for investigations of the Combines Investigation group into that and the Government has been very reluctant. It has been willing to attack fishermen on the whole question of the competition issue but it has failed to get involved by taking a good, hard look at British Columbia. Packers and the way it has dealt with the West Coast fishing industry. We have asked for amendments to the legislation so that there can be a fair, more competitive approach to marketing. Fishermen could then receive a good price for their product and do away with that market dominance.

Conservative Members indicated the other day that they were all for foreign investment and control of Canadian resources. What we wind up with is the Japanese trading companies playing a tremendous role in gathering that resource together and controlling its price. If we were to follow the Pearse recommendations and concentrate the control of that resource in a very small number of hands, ultimately the control would lie in the hands of a small number of Japanese trading corporations which would leave us to be hewers of wood and carriers of water. That is the way it is with coal and base metals, and it is becoming that way with our forest products in the Province of British Columbia. As yet we would still have some opportunities if this Government would move to make sure that the fishing resource is developed in a fair and equitable way for fishermen on the coast of British Columbia and for the coastal communities. I thank the Hon. Member for that brilliant question.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Debate. The Minister of State (Youth).

Hon. Céline Hervieux-Payette (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I wish to thank my colleagues on both sides of the House for their best wishes on the occasion of my recent appointment as Minister of State for Youth. I shall certainly need the co-operation of all Members, because I realize that the tools I have been given are not so many magic wands that will solve all the problems of young Canadian men and women in one fell swoop. However, with my usual determination, for which I am sometimes criticized, I intend to promote, in the course of my mandate, any formula that is likely to improve the circumstances of our young people and to simplify access to existing mechanisms, and, to put it in a nutshell, I intend to act more or less as a catalyst for hopes that are becoming increasingly closer to being realized. In response to wishes expressed by our young people on many occasions, and I am thinking of the Youth summits in Quebec City and St. John's, Newfoundland, and the national tour by the Department of the Secretary of State to prepare for International Youth Year, last year the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) decided that the voice of youth should make itself heard more often, not only in Cabinet but also within the federal administration, where I have been given specific responsibilities, together with the Minister of Employ-