

Commercial Fisheries Development

spawning ground which feeds the Kootenay lakes and Kootenay river.

Mr. Paisch, who is secretary of the B.C. Wildlife Federation, addressed that meeting and mentioned that a survey of this situation was undertaken in 1961, and that the views of this organization were presented to the water comptroller who was holding hearings in the district prior to the final agreement between the government of Canada and the government of British Columbia in respect of the treaty. He said:

The government is suffering from a complete absence of understanding of fish and wildlife.

He was referring to the government of British Columbia. He is reported in this article appearing in the *Nelson Daily News* of April 6, 1966 as having stated:

It's something that always has been here and always will be,—

He went on to say, as reported:

Many people are coming up from California because they've ruined their natural resources there, and now the same thing is being done here.

He was referring to the building of these dams on the Columbia and the flooding of these areas.

He is further reported in this article as follows:

Paisch said that "residential hunters and fishermen spend \$75 million per year and people were never given a chance to state whether they would pay a bit more for power and retain the thing that makes B.C. the place we want to live."

I should like to quote further from the *Nelson Daily News* of January 25, 1966 regarding a rod and gun club meeting about dam clearing under the heading "Arrow Lake Fish Study Recommended at Meeting". It states in part:

During the annual meeting of the West Kootenay Rod and Gun Club Association held in Nelson, Sunday, the government's attitude toward the clearance of dam reservoirs was discussed. This resulted from the Columbia river report read by Frank Shannon and Harry Hanson.

F. Shannon stated that the provincial government is not worried about it. He said, "They feel clearing can be done later when it's needed and it doesn't seem to be worth the expense".

Stewart Smith, chief fisheries management officer said at the end of his speech that "We've always recommended full clearance of reservoirs." He added that leaving reservoir areas uncleared makes them inaccessible to fishermen and destroys their value as a recreational area.

The article then continues to state that the meeting dealt with the whole question, and that committees were established for the entire region and at various local points.

A brief has been submitted to the provincial government urging that a survey be undertaken of the fishery resources in the Duncan lake, Arrow lakes and Columbia river areas so that some planning can be done in order to do as much as possible to remedy the damage that will be caused by the rise and fall of water, the flooding of spawning grounds and the resultant change in the amount of pelagic food available.

I bring these facts to the attention of the minister because I think he has an opportunity under the terms of this bill to do something with the co-operation of provincial governments and local people concerned. We have a great number of people in these districts who understand the situation very thoroughly, and there are many organizations and individuals who would be willing to co-operate with both governments to do everything possible, according to the best information available, to overcome as far as possible the great damage that will be done to these fisheries by the construction of these dams.

Our area is known as a recreational area. People are coming up from the United States in increasing numbers every year. Last year there were approximately 125 boats which came from as far south as Portland on the Columbia. Many of them went as far north as Revelstoke, a distance of over 300 miles of good hunting and fishing at this time. This means a great deal to the economy of the area, not only to the tourist industry and the recreational industry generally, but to the hotels, businesses and the local residents.

I rise briefly to bring these things to the minister's attention in the hope that he will demonstrate to the people of the Kootenays that he intends to take some action under this legislation, and to seek the co-operation of the provincial government in designing a program of surveys and of programs covering the building of hatcheries and other things as recommended by the experts, in an attempt to remedy as far as possible the result, as I have repeatedly stated, of the building of these unfortunate dams.

When the minister replies to the various remarks of hon. members that have been made during this debate I hope he will indicate that he is willing to consider my suggestions and invite the people of British Columbia to undertake to co-operate in action taken under this worth-while bill to remedy the situation. Otherwise we will have wasted