

Adjournment Debate

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources biologists have recently urged for a shorter wall-eye season, not an open season and that is taking into account the fact that the current closed season and sanctuaries apply today to both natives and non-natives. To totally open up the season which is closed year-round to fishing for natives simply does not make sense.

A recent report has indicated that the majority of Canadians favour native self-government. However, achieving this by tearing up existing treaties without consultation with all interested stakeholders will only create discord and bitterness where bridges and understanding are needed.

I am not questioning the ideal of native self-government. Surely the \$5 billion to \$6 billion spent by the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development can be more efficiently directed by native Canadians themselves in a similar manner as municipal government does under the provincial division of powers in the Constitution, only under federal jurisdiction.

The process however is presenting problems. Whether it be a question of native hunting and fishing rights, a question of land claims, as is the case with the Algonquins of Golden Lake claiming a large portion of eastern Ontario, or the efforts of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society to designate the Madawaska highlands region in my riding as an endangered spaces area, special privileges for any one group are not acceptable to my constituents in Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington. Native self-government should be clearly defined and must not ignore existing treaties and laws.

Only by way of thorough consultation and understanding can an acceptable solution be found and the rights of all concerned be respected.

I caution the Government of Ontario and the federal government of the dangerous emergence of nationalism. In the former Yugoslavia, in the former Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, as well as in Canada, there is an increasing tendency for historic tribal or nationalistic groupings to want special status.

We all know Canada is a very difficult country to govern due to its size and the diversity of its people. Over the past decade, the constitutional debate has highlighted the difficulties which exist in a bilingual nation and with the status of First Nations within Canadian

boundaries, to say nothing about racial and ethnic groups increasingly promoting their nationalism.

The last thing we want in—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I am sorry. The rules are tough, but rules are rules.

Mr. Ross Belsher (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. member I would like to explain first how the jurisdiction of our fisheries is shared between the federal government and the province of Ontario.

Section 91(12) of the Constitution Act of 1867 gives the federal government the responsibility for the sea coast and inland fisheries.

In non-tidal waters, the provinces have partial jurisdiction over fisheries that arises from provincial ownership of the water-bed or where the water-bed is privately owned, from their jurisdiction, as a result of section 92(13) of the Constitution Act of 1867 over property and civil rights.

As part of their jurisdiction the provinces allocate the fishery in non-tidal waters after conservation needs have been met. Moreover, nearly 100 years ago the federal government delegated administrative management responsibility to the Government of Ontario. I want to emphasize this point very clearly. The province of Ontario like other inland provinces is the manager of those fisheries within its boundaries.

The province wants to amend the Ontario fishery regulations so Ontario could issue aboriginal community fishing licences under the Ontario Game and Fish Act to the Williams treaty bands to fish for food and social and ceremonial purposes. Proposed changes to the Ontario fishery regulations, which are passed pursuant to the Fisheries Act, must be processed by the federal government.

Provinces proposing regulations should consult with parties likely to be affected by the regulation so that their concerns can be considered. I do not think it wise or appropriate for the federal government to re-enter the field of regulating Ontario's fisheries either in part or in whole. I do not think Ontario anglers need a second level of bureaucracy imposed on them.