

fish traps and seines for the catching of salmon in the Washington state and Puget sound area. I have information to the effect that this bill has been introduced, and I have every reason to believe that it has a good chance to pass the United States Senate.

As I pointed out, Mr. Speaker, on the Fraser river we have about 1,400 individual fishermen. The use of seines at the mouth of the river will actually drive many of those fishermen away or at least curtail their opportunity to earn a livelihood. By using seines at the mouth of the river they will also catch many sockeye; it is stated by the British Columbia Fishermen's Protective Association that there will be probably two pink salmon for every sockeye caught when using seines. Permitting the use of each purse seine will do away with about 150 or 200 fishermen; each seine is equal to about that number of men. The use of seines in certain districts may be all right; I am not saying they never should be used in some districts, but if the minister will take note of this map which I have marked very carefully I believe he will agree that the individual fishermen will be driven off the Fraser river. The fish will not be able to pass the seines and individual gill net boats will be unable to work. It is true that in the United States they have used seines and traps, but we have condemned and still condemn all such methods.

I do not know that I have a great deal more to add with regard to this matter. I believe the order in council has been far too drastic, and I think this and the preceding order in council should have been referred to the committee on marine and fisheries. I thought it was the policy of the department and of parliament to give that committee something to do. Both the hon. member for Comox-Alberni and myself are members of that committee, but apparently it is not to function at all; apparently all regulations are to be put into effect by order in council. The functions of parliament have been taken away, and really if this kind of policy is carried on much further there is little use in our coming here in an endeavour to represent our constituencies if we are to have no chance to present the case of the people who send us. As I say, this order in council affects hundreds of fishermen on the Fraser river. Just why the policy of the department, which has previously been to curtail the use of seines, should be departed from at this time when thousands of men are unable to get employment, I am at a loss to understand. I protest against this measure as strongly as possible. I did not want to bring forward a want of confidence motion, but I am going to ask with all the power I can that

the acting minister seriously consider this whole matter and see if it would not be possible to refer all the recent orders in council to the fisheries committee where they can be properly dealt with, and in the meantime to defer any action allowing the use of seines in the gulf of Georgia.

Mr. A. E. MUNN (Vancouver North): I wish to support the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) and the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid) in this matter. I have a number of fishermen in my riding, and whenever I meet them they always complain about the changes in the regulations. They do not know what is going to happen from one year to another. I think altogether too many changes are made to suit the whims not of the fishermen but of the canners.

I am sorry the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) is not in his place; I was going to take exception to the licking he undertook to hand out to my hon. friend from Comox-Alberni. The minister made the statement that the arguments of my hon. friend were not understandable. Apparently the people in Comox-Alberni understand them; the hon. member has been sent here for many years with big majorities. If there were a by-election in British Columbia to-day and the hon. member for Comox-Alberni and the Minister of Trade and Commerce were to contest the seat, I am sure the minister would be lucky if he did not lose his deposit. The people of British Columbia have a warm feeling for the hon. member for Comox-Alberni.

We in British Columbia are all anxious to see the quality of British Columbia salmon maintained. I am not going into details, but I ask the acting minister if it would not be possible even now to cancel this order in council and refer this proposed regulation to the committee that is ready for action but has nothing to do. I am not a member of that committee, but I do not believe it has done anything this session. Goodness knows this problem could have been threshed out long ago. The minister of Trade and Commerce was in Vancouver a short time ago, and no doubt he discussed this matter while he was there. It is not at all likely that he had any representations from the fishermen, and I should like to know where the minister got the information that led him to believe these changes should be made. It seems to me any proposed changes should be considered in Vancouver, which would permit the fishermen to make representations in their own behalf. The canners can come to Ottawa, but the fishermen are not able to do so.