

Mr. Lundrigan: The minister tells me I haven't asked a question about fisheries this year, and that is exactly the point I am trying to make. You do not talk about fish in the House of Commons any longer; you talk about the environment.

An hon. Member: What's wrong with that.

Mr. Lundrigan: I'm all in favour of it. I am one of the greatest environmentalists in Canada because I live in a province that is one of the last frontiers. It is uninhabited and unmolested, with thousands and thousands of square miles of beauty that is unpolluted by mankind. I tell you that I am going to be here a long while before I ever allow some of the things to happen there that have been happening in some parts of Canada.

When the minister brought in his Department of the Environment every Canadian knows that he eliminated the department of fisheries. Consequently, today even some of our most vocal spokesmen on fish find it almost impossible to stand here with any support from the House of Commons and talk about fish. You do not hear any questions about fish.

An hon. Member: Why not?

Mr. Lundrigan: The minister does not want to hear about fish in this House.

Mr. Crouse: There is no department of fisheries, that is why not. You have no interest in fish. You cut out whaling, you cut out sealing and you cut out everything. You are the biggest doomsday guy in the House, and you know it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crouse: That's why you don't hear about it.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Crouse: You betrayed the fishing industry; you made a mockery of it.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Chairman, my colleague, the hon. member for South Shore, was chairman of the fisheries committee for four years and in my opinion he exemplifies the kind of character, steadfastness and ability we need in the fishing industry of this nation. He has now pretty well expressed the view I wanted to express.

The Minister of the Environment is not interested in fisheries. He does not want to be involved in fisheries. I am sure around the cabinet table he never mentions fisheries legislation. We have eliminated the ministry of fisheries. We have excellent people in the department who are involved with fisheries, but the point I am trying to make is that we have lost our initiative in Canada as a nation which depends so heavily on fisheries. The minister made a tragic blunder when he eliminated the department of fisheries.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Supply

Mr. Lundrigan: During the last election campaign the leader of our party went across Canada and said—

An hon. Member: Which one?

Mr. Crouse: You know which one. There is only one leader in our party. But we could not find your leader over there today.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: How about some order?

Mr. Crouse: You just can't take it. Where is your leader? You haven't got one.

An hon. Member: Oh, go get your dory.

Mr. Crouse: Never mind my dory.

Mr. Lundrigan: During the last election campaign our leader stated categorically that we would adopt a policy to rejuvenate the department of fisheries which would in no way impinge on the ability of the government to handle environmental problems. The Minister of Fisheries said categorically that there was no need for it, and my hon. friend from Newfoundland in that cabinet had no choice but to honour his responsibility in the cabinet.

The end result was that after the election was over we came back to the House of Commons and we were told that the government was going to restructure the department a little. We were not going to have a minister or a deputy minister of fisheries; there was to be a Minister of the Environment and a deputy minister of the environment. But we were told that we would have an assistant deputy minister of the environment and an assistant deputy minister of fisheries and related services, or some such nonsense.

It was made quite clear that the minister realized he had made a mistake, but he was not big enough to stand up before the House of Commons and the Canadian people and say he had made a mistake and intended to restore the department of fisheries. Perhaps he could not get support from his Prime Minister. I am sure he could not get support from the Secretary of State for External Affairs because that is where the biggest problem lies. The minister should have to stand today and tell the whole story about the problems he is having in cabinet with Mr. Sharp, because that is where the problem lies.

I will get around to that subject in a few minutes, and I apologize for using the hon. gentleman's name. When talking about external affairs we should remember that there are a whole lot of external matters that come under that department which do not apply to the fishery. Let me place a few things on the record that have caused us concern.

The hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi was a great salmon fisherman and a great sportsman. He is not here tonight but he has been here and has raised problems in respect of salmon, just as the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster has. I want to inform hon. members of this House that I am going to rise on a point of order every time someone stands up and directs a question to the Minister of Fisheries, because he is not alive and does