

Supply—Fisheries

I would also like him, not during the debate on these estimates but in his annual report, to give a clear analysis of the amount of expenditure on the lamprey program by all the various agencies. I do not mean the contributions. I want to make a distinction, and I would like him to show where the money came from for the program as a whole, and then how the money was spent by the various agencies. I appreciate the information that is available in his report, but I would like to get a complete picture of how all the agencies, those of Canada at the federal and provincial level, and those of the United States at the state and federal level have responded and co-ordinated in this program, because from what we can see it has been an example of fruitful co-operation and co-ordination.

That, Mr. Chairman, sums up the remarks I want to make on the Department of Fisheries. There is one other matter I would be interested in, but again just as something prospective. I would like to know whether the minister or his officials are aware of any work being done in so far as exploiting the fisheries on the shore of Hudson bay are concerned, up north of Winisk, particularly with reference to the Indian population. I raise this matter because this is part of my constituency—a very hard part to visit, as it is about 500 miles from the main population centre—and recently I have received information that the Indians in that area, because of their association with the D.E.W. line work and the attractions of airport life, have gradually lost a number of their traditional skills that enabled them to support themselves. It has been put to me that one of the things which could make their life more attractive from an economic point of view would be if they were staffed and fitted and given a training program to exploit the fisheries along Hudson bay shores. I do not know what merit is in the suggestion, but I would like to know whether the minister is aware of it.

Mr. Robichaud: I shall reply briefly to the questions which have been asked by my hon. friend from Port Arthur. First of all, I want to tell the hon. member that there is so much work to do in the Department of Fisheries which requires so much of my time that I cannot devote more time to my work in the house, as the hon. member suggested.

He asked about the opening of the Trent waterways. Let me assure him that my department is well aware of the effect it could have on the movement of lampreys from one

area to another, but we are now investigating that matter. So far as lake Superior is concerned we agree that trout have virtually been wiped out, and it is recognized that this has been partly due to the effect of lampreys. In this regard joint studies are being made to find out what is the economic effect of the money spent on control of lampreys to date. As the hon. member knows, the federal government has been spending from \$500,000 to \$600,000 yearly on this program which is shared by the United States government on, I would say, a somewhat larger scale. We know to some extent, as I reported before the dinner hour, what effect the lamprey program has had on the lakes, but we want to find out if it is effective economically. We are not yet sure, but this does not mean that we are going to cut down this program. We are working jointly with the great lakes commission and hope that we will be able to solve this problem.

So far as exploiting the fisheries on the shores of Hudson bay is concerned, I know this is of main concern to the Indian population of the area. We have conducted some studies particularly in relation to marine mammals. As I mentioned in my opening remarks yesterday, we are building near Ste. Anne de Bellevue a new laboratory which will look after the problems of the Arctic. I am sure that once we have this laboratory in operation we will be able to look more closely after the problems of that particular area.

Mr. Fisher: May I just develop the lamprey question a little further. Is there any indication that the lamprey cycle is adjusting to the measures which have been taken to poison the streams? There is evidence now that they are using the beaches and shallow waters in the bays for the larvae stage of the cycle.

Mr. Robichaud: We are aware of this, Mr. Chairman, and what we are trying to find out is whether the amount of lampreys using the beaches and shallow waters are increasing compared to the years before we introduced this program. I do assure the hon. member that this matter is under investigation now, but I am not in a position to make a definite statement on the effects of the spawning which is taking place.

Mr. Fisher: Just one other point in connection with the economic study. To paraphrase the minister, he said the economic study is in relation to the amount of money being spent on the control program. What I am interested in is an economic study, in co-operation with the United States and the departments of lands