

*Supply—Fisheries*

itself which, as hon. members know, in these international waters is the basic natural resource of Canada and of the United States.

For the minister's information I quote from an article appearing in the *Picton Gazette* of October 14, 1966. The headline is: "Ducks reveal oil in lake" and it states:

Oil is again being dumped in Lake Ontario by boats. Evidence is found in two ducks shot in the Point Traverse area this week by Gregory Cole. The breasts of the two ducks along with the foot webbing were heavily coated with oil. There have been several convictions for oil dumping, but apparently the practice continues.

Canada cannot any longer afford to tolerate one bit—not one bit—of pollution of Lake Ontario, especially by commercial users of the seaway, and especially by those foreign ship captains who do not yet seem to have become aware of their responsibilities when travelling the waters and rivers of another country.

• (4:00 p.m.)

I have been pleased to read that some members of the United States Congress have also raised this subject. I believe the United States and Canada should combine to apply rigidly laws that have teeth and that will stop this criminal act. When I raised this matter previously, two years ago, the north shore of Lake Ontario was littered with dead ducks. Once a duck came in contact with large blobs of oil on the lake, as the saying goes, it was a dead duck. I am even informed that when hunters shoot these ducks that are covered with oil, they are unfit to eat. On that occasion I raised the matter with the Minister of Transport. This time I hope the Minister of Fisheries will use his good offices within the administration to stop this criminal act. Oil pollution also kills millions of fish. Many of these foreign ship captains are using the Great Lakes as a septic tank, and they must be taught a lesson.

I have made a list of recommendations which may be of some use to the administration in this regard. We need greater and more effective helicopter patrols. I was pleased that the Department of Transport operated a helicopter patrol last year, which resulted in at least eight foreign skippers being fined, and the fines imposed were a little heavier than those imposed previously.

Second, we need to have greater publicity given about the gravity of acts of pollution through the dumping of oil, and more publicity whenever convictions are obtained.

Third, an educational program should be provided for the captains and crews of all ships using the Great Lakes waterway. I believe it would be in the national interest if, instead of fining a foreign captain for such an offence as dumping oil, he were banned from operating a ship on the Great Lakes. In some cases if his company pays the fine the captain more or less goes scot free, he does not learn his lesson. But if he were banned from the waterway that would affect his pocketbook. I know this would be a stringent remedy but it would be an effective way of stopping these offences which, if allowed to continue, will spell the doom of the fishing and tourist industries.

I wish to repeat what has previously been said about the killing of seals on the ice floes in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. During the past year and a half I have received over 400 letters protesting against the inhuman practices followed in the seal fishery, and most of the letters were from school children. There is significance in that. The children of Canada are looking to the government to see that these inhumane practices cease. There is an old biblical saying that a little child shall lead them, and I know many hon. members were proud to get such letters of protest from Canadian school children. Let us see to it that the wishes of the Canadian people, as voiced through the school children, are put into effect.

I agree with the minister that sealskins have a commercial value. There is a market for them, just as there is a market which gives rise to beaver trapping and muskrat trapping. The seal industry must not halt. We must still take our quota of the seals which God put on the earth for the benefit of those Canadian people who live in the vicinity of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, but I trust that the minister will see to it that instantaneous and humane methods of killing these fur-bearing animals are used.

I noted that the minister said these practices had been followed in other centuries and other generations, and that they were brought to the notice of the government and the public only last year. I say to him that the habits of the past give us no licence to perpetuate these inhumane practices into the future. Public opinion now manifests how sensitive are the feelings of the Canadian people. We do not often have occasion to realize the sensitivity of the feelings of the people of Canada. It is a very valuable quality in mankind. I hope those feelings will