

*Supply—Fisheries*

that have been made that the C.C.F. is opposed to the development of the northeastern part of the province, our opposition has been to the particular method which the present provincial administration proposes to follow.

**Mr. Hahn:** You find the money and we will perhaps do it another way.

**Mr. Barnett:** Starting from that point and assuming that the provincial government of British Columbia really wants to see the development of that part of the country take place, as does the C.C.F.—

**Mr. Hahn:** You would not know it.

**Mr. Barnett:**—I come now to the point I wish to make.

**Mr. Patterson:** Are there any fish up there at all?

**Mr. Barnett:** Perhaps it might be wise to decide that the time has come to carry out the kind of dreams for the future I have heard expressed by some of the old time citizens of Prince George. Rather than attempting the difficult feat of transporting power over long distances, it might be wise to begin thinking in terms of having our industries and population a little closer to the power sources.

**Mr. Beech:** What has that got to do with fisheries?

**Mr. Barnett:** By that I mean to say that if engineering studies reveal that the proposed development of the Peace and its tributaries is a feasible one, one which is in the interests of the province and can be done without affecting too adversely the interests of any adjoining province, then it might be wise to go into that thoroughly with a view to postponing at least the day when a decision might have to be made with respect to the alternatives of fish or power on the Fraser river system.

I make this suggestion to the committee at this time so that the present Minister of Fisheries, coming as he does from the opposite side of the country, as I said at the beginning of my remarks, may have in his mind some of the things that are going on in British Columbia in this connection and some of the views which are being expressed. I sincerely hope that when members from the party across the way take part in the discussion they will be prepared to offer the minister the benefit of their advice.

**Mr. Hahn:** Do not worry about us, we will look after ourselves; we are quite capable.

**Mr. Barnett:** To come back more directly to the question of fisheries, may I say I think one of the most important things for

[Mr. Barnett.]

us to have at this stage is a clear-cut statement of the position of the minister, speaking on behalf of the government he represents, outlining their view on the preservation or otherwise of the great salmon industry of British Columbia. While we all hope that our scientists may be able to find a way to resolve some of these complex problems and while I am prepared to urge that much greater resources be devoted to scientific and engineering investigation of these matters than has heretofore been the case, nevertheless I think that until these conditions are met we should know whether or not we are in fact going to have a salmon industry to conduct research with respect to the main streams of the province.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, in discussing the future of the salmon industry as it is related to the present and potential resources of the Fraser river system, I think we should not overlook what we may be able to do to enlarge that industry by the proper cultivation, if I may use that word, of some of the many other salmon streams along the coast of British Columbia. I have read some of the reports and have referred to them before in the house about the destruction that takes place of potential salmon runs as the result of flash floods on our streams along the coast. I have had discussions with people who live and work in the areas. They have described to me how obstructions develop. Because these streams are largely unattended and proper precautions have not been taken to control the flow or to prevent the building of log jams, much of what might be future salmon runs is lost from these streams either because of washing out of the salmon eggs or on other occasions and under different climatic conditions because the water level in the stream is not such as—

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Rea):** Order. I have to remind the hon. member that his time has expired.

**Mr. Barnett:** If I might finish my sentence, Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate the courtesy. I notice that it is almost ten o'clock. Unless it was desired otherwise in the committee, perhaps I could be allowed to continue, with the idea possibly that the next speaker would be first at the next sitting.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Rea):** Has the hon. member leave of the house to continue?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Barnett:** As I was saying in discussing the question of the development of our smaller salmon streams, as I understand it, not only are the future runs lost as a result