

Supply—Fisheries

said that they have suggested we can have fish and power. On the other hand, the fisheries interests suggest that having the dam will eliminate our great salmon industry. The former minister of fisheries, in speaking to the house last year, as reported on page 1707 of *Hansard*, indicated that the value of the salmon industry to the people of British Columbia was about \$50 million a year. This figure seems to be in dispute. General McNaughton, when speaking to the external affairs committee last year, indicated that the value of the salmon industry was about \$12 million. Senator Reid, in speaking to this question following the announcement made by General McNaughton with respect to the value of the fishing industry, indicated that the value of the fishing industry was something like \$75 million. However, whether it is worth \$12 million or \$75 million is actually an immaterial factor. The truth of the matter, as was indicated by the hon. member for Nanaimo, is that we have here a question of keeping an industry alive which is going to supply food for a great number of years to come.

While it is true that the former administration indicated that it was opposed to creating a dam on the Fraser river until such time as all other sources of power were explored and utilized, and the C.C.F. also indicated they favoured maintenance of the fisheries industry rather than power on the Fraser river, as did we, it remains for this government to state its position on this matter. I would urge the minister to say something about it in his reply.

There is one question that has arisen in the course of the debate which was touched upon by the hon. member for Fraser Valley. He spoke as a result of certain statements made by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, and earlier statements made by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway, concerning the Rocky mountain trench and the possibility of developing power in that region, thus keeping our fisheries industry intact. There is no denial of the fact that there are other sources of power in British Columbia. The question of whether or not power could be developed from this area is a debatable one, and might better be discussed outside this house. It was suggested by the former member for Vancouver-Kingsway, who was a highly respected gentleman and who certainly took a very active interest in these problems, that it might be named the Rocky mountain trough. I am just drawing the attention of the C.C.F. group to that fact. I take no exception to that terminology for it connotes that everybody may eat from the trough some day, certainly everyone in

British Columbia might be expected to do so at some time or other. They might well look into that matter.

I should like to draw to your attention also the fact that throughout all the discussion with respect to this particular power development no one has come out and told us how they would finance the scheme. I am satisfied that the hon. member for Nanaimo, who is the financial expert of the group, has from time to time indicated that the tight money policy was necessary. He certainly has not endorsed any suggestion that a huge expenditure of this nature might be financed through the public treasury.

Mr. Barnett: Would the hon. member permit a question? Would he not be more correct if he were to suggest that the hon. member for Nanaimo said this so-called tight money policy was an illusion?

Mr. Hahn: It might have been an illusion to the hon. member for Nanaimo but I think that certainly every merchant and everyone else in business in the country thought it was a rather realistic thing. If my hon. friend will search through the files he will discover that businessmen generally would be more inclined to agree with me than to agree with his suggestion.

However, I do not think it is our purpose at this time to particularly discuss the question of the Wenner-Gren project or whatever one wishes to call it, because the question of the salmon industry and the effective power development along the Fraser river is one which is of such importance to the people of the lower mainland in British Columbia as a whole, a fact which was so well stated yesterday by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni. His point was very well taken.

There are one or two things which I think should be kept in mind in discussing the biological problems relating to the salmon industry, should we decide to go ahead with the development of dams on the Fraser river or should we even be inclined to permit such development. It is a well known fact, as was stated by the hon. member for Coast-Capilano, the former minister of fisheries, that it was found that all the salmon had been destroyed as a result of dams built on the Columbia river. I understand the United States has spent some \$150 million to date in trying to re-establish the salmon industry—in fact in just trying to re-establish the pink salmon industry—on that river and they have not been successful largely due to the fact that they have created so many hazards up river to make it practically impossible for spawning fish to go up stream to lay their eggs in the proper places.

[Mr. Hahn.]