

*Supply—Fisheries*

example, of dogfish, would also help to arrest the gradual decline of the salmon fishery over the years. It has been suggested that sport fishermen should not be allowed to fish inside the fishing boundary and that by fishing inside the boundary they are contributing to the decline of the salmon fishery. I raise these considerations in a general way at this time hoping that the minister will be able to make some conclusive announcement concerning the activities of his department in this regard because, as I have said, the salmon fishery in British Columbia is not a minor one; any decline in that industry has a serious widespread effect.

The last time I spoke on this subject I made reference to the report of Dr. Sinclair on the question of licence elimination. Since that time I have received from the united fishermen and allied workers' union a resolution which was passed at the union's recent convention held in March this year. This dealt with the Sinclair licence limitation report and passed a couple of resolutions one of which resulted in a telegram being dispatched to the Minister of Fisheries and to the Prime Minister. The resolution reads as follows:

Therefore be it resolved this seventeenth annual convention strongly and urgently demand immediate action by the government of Canada, and in particular the Minister of Fisheries, to introduce legislation imposing a five year moratorium on the issuance of new licences and providing that any licence that has not been renewed in any year or any licence which is not utilized in commercial fishing in any year be cancelled.

Be it further resolved the foregoing legislation provide that commercial fishing licences in 1961 and continuing until 1965 shall not be issued to any person who did not hold a commercial fishing licence in 1960. The only exceptions to this rule should be: (a) the holder of a licence in 1959 who was unable to fish in 1960 due to proven illness (b) sons of fishermen who came of age in 1961 and have applied for licences with serious intent (c) any other special circumstances with all such cases being reviewed by an impartial board consisting of representatives of the united fishermen and allied workers' union, native brotherhood of B.C. deep sea fishermen's union of Prince Rupert, Prince Rupert fishermen's co-operative association, and the Vancouver and Prince Rupert vessel owners' associations and the government.

I should like to ask the minister to tell the committee what answer has been given to the wire which was sent with respect to this resolution, in order that the public may understand what action the government has undertaken with respect to this particular report and the suggestions made by the fishermen's union.

That convention also passed a resolution regarding the Sinclair report in respect of licence limitations. I should just like to quote the resolution to which I have reference. It reads as follows:

[Mr. Howard.]

Therefore be it resolved this seventeenth annual convention demands of the government of Canada and the government of the province of B.C. an immediate start on a thorough study of costs, earnings, price fixing, capital accumulations, export for capital, reinvestment of capital, financing systems and earnings of individuals directing and employed by the fishing companies and a thorough study of the costs, earnings and capital accumulation of private vessel owners employing two or more men in the fishing industry. The reports, when completed, to be released in the same manner as this Sol Sinclair report, but without the unnecessary delay of fifteen months experienced in release of this report.

Those two resolutions were passed at that convention, albeit a short while after the Sinclair report was released. It may well be that the resolutions passed were not worded in such a way as to cover all the possibilities arising out of the Sinclair report, nevertheless, this represents action taken in resolution form. I hope the minister will enlighten us and bring us up to date in regard to these particular methods.

I should like to mention one other subject before I sit down. Mr. Val Gwyther, a few years ago, wrote an imaginative article which appeared in the *B.C. Professional Engineer*, and also in the *U.B.C. Chronicle*. There have been reprints of his article appearing elsewhere. The gist of the article was that it was possible to develop the Fraser river for hydroelectric purposes, while at the same time retaining it as a fish river. When this article appeared in 1958, practically everyone in the fishing industry, as well as the engineering field, apart from British Columbia electric employees, who have a definite interest in this matter, suggested that Mr. Gwyther was attempting to put across propaganda in favour of the power industries in British Columbia. This suggestion has been refuted by subsequent writers, engineers and fishery people, and Mr. Gwyther has not been deterred from engaging in the promotion of the so-called multiple use of the Fraser. Within the last week or two, as a matter of fact, he made a speech or wrote an article, in which he stated that, following studies made over a period of two years, proof had been obtained of the feasibility of using the Fraser for the purposes of developing hydroelectric energy, while maintaining it as a salmon spawning river.

I should like the minister to comment in regard to what has been done in this field, and tell us what the results are of the engineering studies, if any, which have been made.

My own personal opinion in this regard is that Mr. Gwyther, in stating again that the Fraser river can be used for this dual purpose, has indicated he did not know what he was talking about in 1958. However, this