

*Supply—Fisheries*

whole question of the viability of the Department of Fisheries and of the Fisheries Act of the federal parliament. I think it is important to know exactly what developments are taking place in this connection because this matter has implications that go far beyond the immediate effects upon that particular river and its spawning beds.

I was glad to note that the minister made reference in his remarks to the question of pollution. He mentioned that people in his department are going to be involved in the forth coming conference in Montreal which is being convened under the sponsorship of the Council of Resource ministers. I hope that the federal Department of Fisheries and the federal fisheries research board will make a real impact with the presentations that they will make to that conference.

I think that the problem of pollution is underlined by one of the recommendations contained in the recently tabled report of the commission of inquiry into freshwater fish marketing. Recommendation No. 15 of the commission, which I should like to draw to the attention of the committee, is as follows:

15. We recommend that present legislation governing water pollution be strictly enforced and that governments take all further steps required to prevent pollution of Canadian inland waters.

Legislation should not only aim to make and keep water "safe" for human use, but should simultaneously create an environment in which Canadian freshwater fish can thrive. Corrective and preventive measures with regard to pollution should keep in mind the needs of the freshwater fishery.

I realize that this report was tabled in the house by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, but the heading in *Hansard* under which is recorded the statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce is "Fisheries". I am also pleased to realize that the report of the commissioner went beyond the mere matter of recommendations on the question of a fish marketing board and went into some considerable detail on the question of resource management in the inland areas of Canada, a matter which is covered by the terms of reference of the inquiry. The minister is cognizant of the fact that it is not only important to have proper and orderly marketing arrangements for our fish products but that we take steps to maintain and to expand the basic resource.

In this connection, as one of the members of the northern affairs committee I had an opportunity for the first time of getting a glimpse of the inland fisheries of the Northwest Territories and the fisheries along our Arctic coast. Certainly one of the facts of

life which I feel was brought home to all members of the northern affairs committee was the importance of renewable resources to the well-being of the indigenous population of the Canadian north in order to enable them to have a decent livelihood.

Quite apart from having been able to enjoy Arctic char as it really should taste, it was brought home to me that among the renewable resources of the Canadian north, vis-à-vis the standard of living that may be achieved by the local population fish are important.

The minister might be interested to know that when those of us on the committee were at Cambridge Bay we had the opportunity of engaging in conversation with the members of a field party from the fisheries research board which was at work in that area, as well as getting a glimpse of the work that they were doing and enlarging our knowledge of the potential of the Arctic seas in that area. One of the points I should like to raise in committee concerns the difference between the kind of information given to us by the minister and the officers of his department at headquarters with the reality we see when we have an opportunity of travelling in the field and learning the situation first hand from those engaged in the industry and those concerned with the preservation and expansion of the resource. It seems that sometimes the kind of answers we get here in Ottawa do not jibe very well with what we see and hear in the field. I know that this situation is not confined to the Department of Fisheries. But one of the impressions one gets as a member is that here in Ottawa there is a disposition to view many things through somewhat rose-coloured glasses. I suggest to the minister that he and his departmental officers are not altogether immune from this fault.

• (12:40 p.m.)

For example, we raise questions about whether logging activities are resulting in damage to salmon spawning streams along the Pacific coast watershed. We are assured that there is fairly good co-operation in this area, that co-operation is improving and generally speaking no damage is being done to the salmon spawning streams as a result of logging activities. When we make inquiries about the effects of pollution by industrial activities such as mining, we are generally told that this matter is under very close study and steps are being taken to ensure that no damage is being done to our fisheries.

However, when we go into the field we very often hear stories that are quite contradictory