

Supply

brought against his Government, not by us but by the thousands of people who appeared in front of Dr. Pearce? It is Dr. Pearce's accusations and those of the people who appeared in front of him that the Minister is so upset about having to answer here this afternoon.

Mr. De Bané: Mr. Speaker, let us be clear: I welcome the debate. What I find most despicable is the circumstances in which it was planned. To give us notice on Thursday night that they would like to use the time of the House today for that debate is not in my opinion the proper way to gain credibility and show that they are not ones to play tricks on the backs of the Pacific coast fishermen. This is not the way to give proper consideration. There are no Canadians foolish enough to think that this way of doing things is proof of any genuine concern for the plight of our fishermen. I welcome the debate but I do not welcome the tricks.

As to the question of the faults with the Department as found by Dr. Pearce, it is precisely because I accept Dr. Pearce's criticism that I pleaded with Treasury Board for, and received, over 70 man-years to increase those management functions where Dr. Pearce found the Department at fault. Precisely because I do concur with those of his recommendations for the Department to improve its performance, I pleaded the case and I got the necessary man-years.

I would also ask my hon. friend not to read Dr. Pearce's report selectively. Dr. Pearce said there are many causes for the collapse of the stock on the Pacific coast. He says that, all in all, by far the most important reason is the overfishing by the people themselves.

Mr. Fraser: You let it happen.

Mr. De Bané: Well, you see—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. This period provides for 10 minutes of questions and comments. We are already half way through and only one question has been put and one reply given. I think it is fair to other Members who want to put questions that I recognize them at this time.

Mr. Huntington: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is no doubt aware of the work of the international Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission. He has made a very strong political statement regarding his inability to negotiate with the Americans or their inability to negotiate with the Minister. The Minister sits on top of a Department which this year is requesting or spending a budget of some \$640 million. He says the fisheries stocks are depleting at a compound rate of 1.5 per cent per annum. He says something very strong and drastic has to be done, and I agree.

As I said, his budget this year is some \$640 million. In the years from 1937 to 1982-83, the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission has received from the two Governments a total of \$31 million. If the Minister looks at the Commis-

sion's 1982 report he will find that in all areas the escapement and return have increased except in the Stewart area. How is it that a commission with a very stringent budget, zero-based and smothered and strangled, is able to do such magnificent work in terms of delivery or harvest when the Minister and his officials on the West Coast, with all the money they have ever needed, cannot do the same?

Mr. De Bané: Mr. Speaker, obviously the Hon. Member is very happy with the performance of the Commission and I am ready to join with him. But may I remind him also that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, under the leadership of this Government, has already spent a staggering amount of money to launch this program, which has certainly brought a lot of benefits toward increasing the B.C. salmon stocks. In that I think—

Mr. Huntington: A staggering amount of money.

Mr. De Bané: Well, what I am saying is that several solutions have to be used, one is not enough. I think all of them must be used. Obviously by far the best is restraint in the fishing effort. I am ready to work with all the different participants to improve the situation of the B.C. fishery.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, the Minister mentioned that his officials are meeting the ministerial—

Mr. Manly: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Miller) was up for a question.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): So was I.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): I will recognize the Hon. Member who is already speaking and then I will recognize the Hon. Member for a question.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): My question will be short; I do not know whether the Minister's answer will be short. I implore the Minister to give the Hon. Member an opportunity.

The Minister's officials are meeting the MAC today. If he is not prepared today to say what gear types he is planning to reduce, at what rate and at what cost, will he table in the House next week the results of that discussion so that we will know?

Mr. De Bané: Mr. Chairman, at last the Opposition is becoming sensible. What we are doing today with the MAC and what we will be doing at the next meeting is to put before them all the different issues we think are relevant in the Pacific fishery, as well as all the different options. What we are asking them at this moment, is have we properly identified all the issues or have we forgotten any? If we have covered all the issues, do you agree that the options we have put before you are all the realistic options?