

The Address—Mr. Miller

I would now like to deal with some of the problems I see in Canada getting to the position to meet the expectations fishermen and the general public have at the moment.

The salmon enhancement hatchery program initially was to be in its first phase a five-year program. This was at a cost of \$150 million. But because of government restraint and other political factors, I would suggest, the program has been expanded to a first phase of seven years. We are now in the position where we are looking at phase two and what can be accomplished in the phase two program. On the one hand, Canadians should not be expected, however, to be putting money into one program to raise salmon and, on the other hand, to be abusing that resource. But that is what we are doing in British Columbia.

An example in my own riding is the Big Qualicum River Hatchery. This is a demonstration hatchery. The Department of Fisheries is very proud to bring Japanese and American visitors to show off the hatchery. This has been very successful. Student tour groups are paraded through the hatchery regularly. The hatchery flows from a pristine lake, a deep cool water lake, in which the department has built three intake valves so it can adjust the temperature of the water in the river. This allows for proper incubation in the spawning channels and in the hatchery throughout the year. The river is completely controlled in terms of its temperature, water control, and its level. It produces 40 million to 50 million chum fry a year, one million chinook fry, and three million coho fry for the commercial fishery in the Strait of Georgia and the sports fishery there.

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Recently the land on either side of that river has been purchased by developers and logged right down to the river, resulting in silting and degradation of that hatchery to the point where, as a result, we are not going to reach the limit of its productivity.

An hon. Member: Sounds like Liberal management.

Mr. Miller: The fisheries department had the opportunity of purchasing the property in the area of the hatchery. The comment was made, "we are not in the practice, and we are not in the business of real estate." I suggest that maybe they are not in the business of protecting their own hatcheries and maybe they are not in the business of raising salmon. Coming after the logging operation is a subdivision proposal. We are jeopardizing a \$4½ million project for the sake of subdivision, logging, and further development.

Riley Creek on the Queen Charlotte Islands is another example of how governments and their departments ignore potential hazards to the salmon industry. With regard to logging on deep slopes, a warning was given by one of the fisheries officers. In fact the fisheries officer, recognizing the damage possible from those steep slopes and slumping, slipping in, etc., actually laid charges against loggers and logging companies. My party objects to individual loggers being charged, loggers being told to go into an area and log and cut.

We were certainly in favour of charges being laid as an example to logging companies to protect salmon spawning streams.

The fisheries officer was not backed up by the justice department. Consequently he quit his job. Subsequent to those charges being laid, there was indeed, flooding, slumping and blocking of that creek. We are destroying our creeks and rivers in British Columbia through poor management of the logging industry, through neglect in our municipal wastes and industrial wastes, yet the Canadian public is putting \$150 million into salmon enhancement projects.

We are going ahead with hydroelectric dams in Canada that are destroying spawning streams and the runs of salmon. We are looking at the Garrison diversion which is going to jeopardize our inland fishery, a fishery that also has an exciting future in lake fertilization and new innovative techniques to raise more fish in our inland waters and provide more economic benefit to the prairie provinces.

What else are we doing in Canada? We are destroying our lakes in Ontario and Quebec through acid rain, with permission to industry to destroy our natural environment, destroy the habitat that our fish resources must have in order to meet their growth patterns.

The Atlantic coast is an extremely exciting possibility. My colleague, the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Howie), made mention of a new program the Conservative government brought in for renewal of the fleet in the Atlantic provinces. I agree with him. It is a good program. It is required; it is necessary. However, I caution those people who feel we can get into a new fleet immediately in the fishing industry on the east coast without doing some planning.

On the west coast of British Columbia we now have a fleet that is four or five times larger than it needs to be in order to catch the available fish. That simply dissipates the income from the resource. In the case of this year where we have lower returns on all five species of salmon, it is going to result in bankruptcy to many fishermen who met the expectations that the minister, the public and, I suspect, the department felt for western Canada. The same kind of expectations are held on the east coast. I caution the minister before going into a huge new fleet on that coast that he table in this House a fleet development plan which will indicate what kind of fleet we require to meet the growing demands in the world markets for a better quality fish.

I attended the Fisheries Council of Canada meetings in Montreal just last week. The key to Canadian success in developing world markets for salmon, cod and other ground species is going to be quality. For too long Canadians have been able to sell their product to, maybe, undiscerning consumers. We are now having to expand our markets to Europe, Scandinavian communities, and other nations that are used to eating fish and know good quality.

The Fisheries Council of Canada have recognized that their obligation is to develop better methods of preserving, processing and shipping the product that they hope to sell on world