

he will give some thought along the lines I have mentioned toward its greater progressive development.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, the party to which I have the honour and good fortune to belong has long been urging the establishment of a separate department of fisheries. To that extent we welcome this bill. We would welcome it with more open arms if it were confined to the division of the Department of Fisheries and the Environment into its two component parts, environment and fisheries. But this bill is a grab bag. It has many other components with which I do not propose to deal at any great length.

The hon. member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse) has spoken with experience as a background, with knowledge gained from that experience, and from close study of the problems. He spoke about the fishing problem on the east coast. I propose to deal only briefly with some of the fishing problems on the west coast. In due course some of my colleagues from the west coast will wish to make their contributions to that particular area.

In beginning my comments, I hope—and this is something of a more general nature—the minister will be able to provide the House and Canadians with some account of where we stand in our bilateral talks with the United States on the matter of fisheries and boundaries. One hears conflicting rumours as to what state the boundary talks are in, and it may very well have been decided that they should go to arbitration on the east coast. According to an announcement made approximately two weeks ago, it was decided by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Jamieson), I hope in conjunction and collaboration with the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment (Mr. LeBlanc), to leave the west coast problems aside for the time being and deal with the east coast. They are both difficult problems, and no one will deny that.

An hon. Member: What about the north coast?

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Of course there is the north coast as well and the Gulf of Alaska. I do not really think the government is capable of handling these complex problems. It cannot handle our economy. It has run us into the ground on that. What sort of results will we receive out of these discussions, even with the best negotiators in the world? With the political direction they have, I doubt very much we will receive what we ought to receive out of these talks. Before the debate on second reading terminates in the House, I hope we will have some indication from the minister as to where the talks on the boundaries, fisheries and other resources stand.

On the subject of fisheries on the west coast, I will deal primarily with the environmental aspect. I feel I have an obligation to mention some of the problems on the west coast. They are current because within the next six weeks there will be a large fishery opening on the west coast, and there is utter confusion among the trollers and the gillnetters. Only today I received a telegram from the gillnetters concerning the new regulations which were issued after the gillnetters had re-equipped their vessels to go out and fish. They spent thou-

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sands of dollars to bring their gillnet equipment up to date in order to go out and fish, and now the new regulations have been issued. The same situation is hanging over the heads of the troller men.

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I have a feeling that both troller men and gillnetters are small business men. Sometimes they are pretty big business men, but they are independent. These are the people this government should be encouraging rather than discouraging, and that is what is happening as a result of these regulations. Our troller men are being regulated out of business. Our gillnetters are being driven out, so that all we will have left will be employees or hands working for the companies owning the ships. They will be hands on board the ships, recruited in the recruiting halls. This is only part of the fishing industry, but an important part, made up of independent fishermen who operate trollers, and the gillnetters. They must not be regulated out of existence, but they fear for the extermination of their kind. I hope there will be a re-examination of the regulations which have been drawn up and which are condemning them to extinction.

I have in the past made a number of comments about the forestry aspects of this bill and I should like to do so again this evening. I will leave the better part of that to my colleague, the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle). I am sure he will draw on his experience to bring to the attention of the House and the Canadian public some of the disasters brought on by this government through its neglect of the forestry industry, and particularly by its attack on forest research programs of the current department and the department that will be taken over by the Minister of State (Environment) (Mr. Marchand).

I am sure the government will be bound to reply in the usual way by stating it has done wonders for the forestry industry, yet it cuts back on a number of important forestry research programs in the interest of so called economies, short run economies, I might add.

The same can be said, of course, about cutbacks in fisheries research programs run by the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. Again, these are short-term economies. It defeats me how this government can rationalize cutbacks in research programs aimed at increasing productivity in a particular sector. I just do not and cannot understand that. I am sure the Canadian public, particularly those who have devoted their lives to these programs, will ask themselves similar questions.

If these cutbacks were related to research projects in areas where they may or may not contribute in the long run to the economy, I could understand the government taking no risks at a time of restraint. Anyone can understand that attitude. However, there are many programs at this time of restraint which could have been cut as they are not productive and do not contribute in the long term to growth and development in our economy. Yet this government chose to cut back on productive research programs. What I am saying is that when