

*Supply—Fisheries and Forestry*

must channel sizeable amounts of money into investment of badly needed research. Only in that way will new markets be developed.

Pollution of fish spawning grounds is a problem that plagues the industry. The minister and his department so far have been able to exercise little or no control over this matter. I hope the minister will recognize how serious the problem of pollution is and make a statement about it. I also hope to hear something from the minister about the progress of the proposed Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act amendments. Is a bill to be introduced soon? I ask this even though the matter may come under the aegis of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. We must tighten the various departmental and provincial responsibilities with regard to pollution and we must recognize that responsibility for pollution is not something that is only of regional interest but concerns our entire population.

I should like to hear the minister say something about the establishment of an anti-pollution authority. I submit that the plans of various municipalities and plants to use the rivers and lakes of Canada as so many open sewers for the disposal of waste ought to come under scrutiny. No one ought to be allowed to dump waste into our rivers and lakes that are inhabited by fish and used by human beings in summer. We must bring strict regulations to bear in this area so that our rivers and lakes may be kept as free of pollution as possible. Over the years persuasion has not been enough to curb this problem and I should like some concrete governmental action taken in this regard.

May I direct your attention, Mr. Chairman, to the salmon industry of British Columbia, an industry which has faced troubled times and will face troubled years in the future. The fishermen of my area are disturbed because fishermen from the United States may fish in the waters off Point Roberts on days when the fishermen from my area may not do so. Regulations govern the catching of fish in the Fraser river. On certain days our fishermen are prohibited from fishing but this prohibition does not apply to United States fishermen. Our fishermen complain that while they are prohibited by our laws from fishing on certain days in the Fraser river, United States fishermen take advantage of their inability to catch fish about to enter the Fraser and obtain catches which our Canadian fishermen would have obtained if they had been allowed to engage in fishing.

[Mr. Rose.]

• (2:40 p.m.)

The salmon fishermen, as represented by their union, are concerned about the new licensing regulations which have recently been proposed and imposed by the minister. For the benefit of the committee, Mr. Chairman, I would like to review some of the points connected with these new regulations. I believe the main point in these proposals is that there are to be no new licences issued, at least for the time being.

The vessels that fish for salmon are divided into two kinds, class A and class B. Class A are those described as having a total value catch of more than \$1,250 in 1967 and 1968, and class B are those which have had a total catch of less than \$1,250 in 1967 and 1968. The class B licences are slated to disappear along with the boats. A licence will die when the boat is no longer a viable fishing vessel. There does not seem to be any criticism of this action regarding class B vessels. The main point at issue rests with the issuing of licences to class A boats because those licences are now to be bought and sold with the boats to which they are attached. The big question is, who can buy these boats and therefore acquire a licence for himself?

As I have said, Mr. Chairman, these new regulations are of deep concern to many fishermen and that concern has been expressed by their organizations, notably their union. We must admit that all branches of the Pacific coast industry with one exception, the Prince Rupert Co-op, agree that there should be some kind of limitation, but the question concerns the method by which limitation is to be accomplished.

I would like to outline to the committee the main fears of the fishermen, as represented to me, on this matter of particular importance to them which affects their livelihood. The first point is that fishermen who know no other occupation, fishermen of all ages and in all branches of the industry, might be prevented by these new regulations from ever being able to fish privately again. They are concerned because they think they may have no other choice than to become employees or slaves of the fishing companies. They cannot afford to purchase class A boats. In many cases they have spent their whole lives and their families for generations have spent their lives in the fishing industry, and they fear that in the future they will be excluded from it.

The second point is that these new regulations will lead to the establishment of a select