

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

FOURTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Ian Wahn (St. Paul's): May I have consent to revert to routine proceedings for the purpose of presenting a report of the external affairs committee?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Wahn: I have the honour to present the fourth report of the standing committee on external affairs and national defence.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Faulkner in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

1. Departmental administration, including grants and contributions as detailed in the estimates, \$3,509,175.

The Chairman: Order. The House in committee of supply, estimates of the Department of Fisheries and Forestry.

Mr. Durante: Mr. Chairman, if I may be allowed a few minutes more, I was making reference to the value of the sports fishery to the Canadian economy. I indicated that it was of inestimable value, that there was no way a price tag could be placed on its value. I should like to speak of my own personal experience. My sports fishing exploits have varied from very successful, on the one hand, to dismal failure on the other. Consequently the cost to me per pound of sports fish caught has also varied, and on occasion has run as high as \$50 per pound. This is not meant in criticism of our sports fishery but indicates rather my inability as a sports fisherman.

However, my point is that this is a very valuable industry. In our changing society I feel that we are going to be faced with much more leisure time, and I know there are many people who enjoy sports fishing during their leisure time. I should like to urge that serious consideration be given to the possibility of instituting salt water sports fishing licensing. I am convinced that this would meet with approval, provided the revenues derived therefrom could be returned to the sports fishery in the form of artificial spawning channels or controlled flow channels.

Mr. Mather: Mr. Chairman, I thank you for seeing me. Like the minister, I too come from

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the west coast of Canada, and I am particularly interested in having an opportunity to take some part in the discussion of these estimates.

I should like to say at the outset that although I am a member of the fisheries committee of this house and am not entirely ignorant of the troubles and difficulties faced by the fishing industry and fishermen in the Atlantic and maritime areas, aside from saying that I and my party fully support the representations that members from that area have made so well today, I intend to devote my remarks more to a discussion of the problems of the fishing industry on the west coast.

The appointment of the present minister a few months ago was welcomed by many people in the industry in British Columbia. On the one hand, I think it was felt that coming from British Columbia he would be more conversant than his two immediate predecessors with the problems that we have in that industry on the west coast. Or if I may put it in this way, they felt that at least he could not be less conversant than they were. Therefore the minister took office with some support on the part of the industry.

I believe the minister should be congratulated upon the speed and energy with which he has taken up his position and got down to business. It is not for his lack of speed that some parts of the industry and hon. members here are criticizing him; it is for the decisions this speed has brought him to.

I will deal with one particular aspect of his major decision to date, but before I do so I want to outline very briefly some of the problems that were left over to this minister by the two previous administrations of both old line parties. Among these were the need for a licence limitation program; the need for the declaration of headland to headland base lines so as to give reality to the 12-mile fishing limit for Canadians; the need for resolute action to bring all these countries that fish the north Pacific into a new fisheries treaty; and the need for the development of offshore fisheries for Canadian vessels and fishermen in the Pacific. I add to that list one other need which has grown more apparent during recent years, and that is the need to combat pollution in the fishing rivers of the province.

The minister has made a start by tackling at once the issue of licence limitation. This is a move that was long overdue. To quote the Vancouver *Sun*, a basic problem has been—as other hon. members have said earlier—“too