

*Supply—Fisheries*

**Mr. Sinclair:** May I just say this, Mr. Chairman. Earlier I said that it was the hon. member for Vancouver East who had come and had the discussion with me. By force of habit I had used the name of my hon. friend's old riding. It was the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway who came and had this long discussion with me about the Fraser river.

**Mr. Hahn:** Mr. Chairman, I listened with a good deal of enthusiasm and interest to one of the most enlightening talks which I believe I have ever had the pleasure of hearing, especially with respect to fishing. We in British Columbia are extremely proud, as we have been for some years, of our Minister of Fisheries.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Do not say so publicly.

**Mr. Hahn:** Yes; I will say it quite publicly. I say it because someone earlier said "This day shall change all quarrels into love". At this time I should like to congratulate the minister particularly on the fact that he put considerable effort, I know, as an individual and as Minister of Fisheries particularly, into helping the fishermen in British Columbia to get rid of the huge stockpile of salmon they had there which amounted to approximately a million cases. The research work that he spoke of so fluently and so well is, I would say, possibly more necessary than ever in this scientific world in which we live today. I should also like to make a suggestion in this respect and it is this. Probably we should have freer circulation of that type of material. Then we would not have quite the same amount of objection as was indicated by some hon. members who voiced their opinions in earlier addresses.

I am particularly pleased to have heard him announce that the closure of the Fraser river above the Pattullo bridge will not be put into effect until October 8 this year, that he has taken these steps and has at this time announced the closure for the next two years. At least the fishermen on the west coast know where they are at in that regard. I believe it is something which the fishermen have requested for a long time and which they possibly had a right to expect. Under our democratic system the minister recognized that desirability and let us have the answer to it in today's sitting.

I have one question to put to him, though, in this regard and it is this. Will full-time fishermen above the Pattullo bridge be permitted to fish below the Pattullo bridge after October 8? We are all aware of the fact that some of these fishermen are full-time

fishermen, though possibly not the majority of them; but the evolution of numbers in our fishing industry would indicate that since there were 611 fishermen this year in that area. Certainly they are not temporary fishermen or part-time fishermen, or sports fishermen for that matter. I should like to know for their information whether it will be permissible to fish below the Pattullo bridge after October 8. A large part of my particular riding happens to be below the Pattullo bridge. Now that steps are being definitely taken to close the fisheries above the Pattullo bridge I am interested in knowing whether or not such a move is being contemplated below the Pattullo bridge in the near future, in order that the fishermen can govern themselves accordingly.

**Mr. Robichaud:** Mr. Chairman, for those of us who are interested in fisheries, it is most gratifying to note that the minister has judged it to be advisable to introduce his estimates before the committee at this time. His masterful presentation this afternoon has been most educational and enlightening to all of us. An industry which yields landings of over two billion pounds annually, with a market value of nearly \$200 million, deserves study and serious consideration. Our sea and freshwater fisheries are among the most extensive in the world and, with a potential still unknown, are bound to contribute largely to the world's food requirements in the years to come.

The Minister of Fisheries deserves congratulation on the vast growth and improvement which have taken place in his department during his tenure of office. His department has now passed the stage of being a minor department and its present organization is evidence of the wise management required by the ever-growing fishing industry in our country today. Various policies adopted in the last twelve months indicate the progressive advancement of the industry and the desire of our energetic and able Minister of Fisheries to cope with these developments and to be prepared for future expansion.

It is my intention, on the occasion of the presentation of the 1954-55 fisheries estimates, to express briefly my views on certain aspects related to the fisheries department, mainly on the Atlantic coast and in the province of New Brunswick. I have great admiration for the efficiency and sincerity of the fisheries officials, with a large number of whom I have been personally connected in my fifteen years of service in the federal and provincial fields, first as federal fisheries inspector and then as provincial director of fisheries for