

*Supply—Fisheries*

various programs, the actual activities that touch the fishermen in any political or in any other way that starts up partisan controversy are largely disappearing.

It has been notable that our friend who is the minister, when he was in opposition was one of the most bristling and aggressive of the members of the opposition. When he became a minister you would have expected him to be the same way, but the plain fact of the matter is that his portfolio does not give him the opportunity to be so. We can all remember our very affable friend over here from Prince Edward Island when he was minister of fisheries. In essence the role, so far as it was a political one in the House of Commons, did not really give him an opportunity for the general cut and thrust and the general political responsibility that I suggest attaches to a minister.

My feeling is that this is one more of those departments we should consider when we take a look at the old traditional attitude, and see if we cannot re-arrange them under a general ministry of science, and possibly wipe out one or two portfolios, or perhaps provide portfolios in other areas and other fields which might merit them. If you judge by the interest in the questions in the house, broadcasting alone would merit a minister much more than fisheries, mines and technical surveys or forestry. It seems to me the thing to do so far as ministerial things are concerned is to adjust to the positions that are considered important, relevant and current among the people in politics.

One of the questions I would like to ask the minister relates to the advice that was given by the scientists of the Department of Fisheries to the other departments, and particularly to the Department of Transport, with regard to the question of opening up the Trent waterways. As the minister knows, game and fishing associations in Canada have made this somewhat of an issue, and I know my hon. friend over here from up in the Orillia area has been actively interested in this. I have a couple of fishing and game groups who have seen what has happened with the lamprey eel on lake Superior, and they are of the opinion that steps should be taken or plans made to go ahead with supporting a program that would offset the entry of the lamprey eel into lakes following the opening up of the Trent waterways. They feel this would be a most retrograde step, and I understand the decision to go ahead has been taken. Because of that I would like to know if advice was

sought from the Department of Fisheries, and what advice was given.

The second point I want to ask about is whether the minister's officials have considered doing an economic study in relation to the fisheries situation on lake Superior. As the minister knows, the fishery, so far as trout are concerned, has been almost wiped out because of the lamprey. However, we assume that because of various control measures that have been taken the trout are coming back, though not with tremendous speed. It seems to me at this time, particularly when the number of fishermen on the Canadian shores is very low, it might be a good time to go ahead with our United States friends and make an economic study of the future of the fisheries on lake Superior. This is especially important, because more and more use is being made of lake Superior which is littered with campers, U.S. fishermen, and of course, Canadian fishermen, and when I say this I am thinking of sports fishermen rather than commercial fishermen.

It seems to me there may be a case—I am not supporting it particularly—that as lake Superior comes back it should not be opened up again or not turned back to the trout fisheries on a commercial basis. Rather, it should be exploited for sport by Canadian fishermen. This should be particularly interesting if the stories I hear from my acquaintances in provincial fish hatcheries are true, and these stories are to the effect that landlocked salmon are adjusting very well to planting experiments in lake Superior.

I suggest to the minister this might be a place where his department could play a role in an economic study, undertaken jointly with the provincial department of lands and forests and the United States wild life service, or one of the other U.S. agencies that operate in connection with the lamprey control program.

The last matter I want to question is whether it is true that the lamprey control program has been successful in cutting out the reproduction cycle so far as the streams are concerned, and whether it is true there is now strong evidence that the lamprey is turning to cycles on the flats and beach areas along the shores of lake Superior. I am told this particular eel is adapting to the control program, that it is taking defensive steps, I suppose in a way by instinct, to survive the control program. If this is so, means of control are going to be tremendously expensive, and I would like to have a comment from the minister on whether this is true.