

does not exist, and has not existed for some time. We suggest respectfully that the time of this Committee and the interests of all Canadians would be better served if the Committee addressed itself to clearing up this basic problem before embarking on more legislation that does nothing more than gather dust in the courts throughout this land.

Before we make specific comment on those sections of Bill C-83 that concern us, we ask the Committee's indulgence to allow us to answer the many charges made against us regarding our position on Bill C-83. Over the years the B. C. Wildlife Federation has built a reputation for honesty and integrity, a fact we take great pride in. We feel however that both our honesty and integrity have been impugned by these charges and we have not only a right but a duty to see they are answered.

The Minister of Justice has intimated before this Committee that we have been inaccurate and unfair in our statements concerning Bill C-83. One of the members of this Committee, Mrs. Simma Holt, has accused us of dishonesty and hinted rather broadly that we are liars. We have been informed that Senator Perrault has publicly called for government investigation of our organization for irresponsibility and fraud. To his credits the Minister of Justice has assured our members that no such investigation will take place and we accept his assurance. We emphasize though that we have nothing to hide and do not fear any type of investigation. In light of all this, we feel we must impose upon the Committee's time to rebut these charges.