

Supply—Fisheries

There have been developments with regard to marketing. For example, just the other day the McIvor report on the marketing of fresh water fish in certain areas was tabled. There are the problems of the inshore fishermen. I am the first to admit that in many cases these are sociological problems or problems which at least have a sociological aspect, but in this regard there are matters which are a federal government responsibility, such as the provision of suitable wharves and so on. It is true these things come under the Department of Public Works; nevertheless the federal government is responsible for them.

As the minister mentioned, there is the problem of education and technical training for these fishermen and others so they can adjust to the developments in the industry. I mention these things just to point out that there is a great field in which discussion might take place here, but because of the circumstances of the situation it is the intention of the official opposition to exercise great restraint on the first item and not indulge in a general debate. However, we do not intend to forfeit our right to ask questions of the minister with regard to the administration of the department generally on these various items.

The minister has not mentioned supplementary estimates A. I do not know whether it is the intention to pass these as well at this time. If that is the case no doubt there will be some questions in this regard. Mr. Chairman, I wish it to be clearly understood that in these first remarks I have made I have not attempted to cover the whole field by any means. If I have failed to mention numerous very important aspects of the fishing industry, it is not because I wish to ignore them nor that they are not important. Questions will be asked on them later as the items are called.

My chief reason, however, for being brief at this time is that these estimates were carefully considered during the meetings of the standing committee on fisheries earlier this year, and that committee has on it members who are very knowledgeable with regard to the problems of the fisheries in, I think, every important fishing area of the country.

• (12:30 p.m.)

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Queens has set out in detail the manner in which the estimates of the Department of Fisheries have been before the house since they were called originally on a supply motion. My only comment on that

[Mr. MacLean (Queens).]

aspect of the matter would be to say that we in the New Democratic Party feel that this method of approach to the estimates of the fisheries department has really been a very satisfactory one which we hope will be repeated when we come to deal with next year's estimates. Further, Mr. Chairman, I hope there may be some development in regard to handling estimates to the point where it may be agreed that following the work of a standing committee on estimates, such as the one dealing with the Department of Fisheries, the report of the committee to the house may be presented in such a way that it can be considered, discussed and possibly acted upon by the whole house.

In his opening remarks today I feel that the minister did two things. He mentioned some of the highlights of the work of the department which were considered by the standing committees—I presume for the general information of those members of the house who are not members of the committee. He also touched on some developments which have taken place during the quite considerable period of time that has elapsed since the committee concluded dealing with the estimates. It is not my intention to go over what the minister said today point by point. Indeed, in connection with developments on which he has reported, such as the return of the pink salmon to Newfoundland or the lobster experiment on the west coast of Vancouver Island, I am willing to take his report as being somewhat more up to date and I will take it as read.

My principal interest is to raise with the minister some of the questions which are in my mind and with which I do believe he dealt in his opening statement. So far as I am concerned it matters not too much whether they are dealt with and answered while we are on item No. 1 or at a later stage on the detailed items. However, I think it is the general desire of the house, or at least of the members of the marine and fisheries committee, not to have an extended period of consideration in committee of supply so perhaps some of these questions could be dealt with immediately.

One question with which the minister, did not deal and which to me is very important concerns the situation at present in respect of the very important subject of multiple resource use arising out of the driving of logs on the Stellako River in the central interior of British Columbia. As the minister and the house well understand, this involves the