

*Supply—Fisheries*

for the objective approach they have taken in regard to the fisheries problems.

The hon. member for Comox-Alberni again raised the question of the seal hunt, which I thought I had covered earlier. He read excerpts from a certain report written by Mr. Brian Davies. I must inform the hon. member that Brian Davies is the same man who made a statement earlier this year that the High Commissioner's office in London had interfered with the showing of a certain film in Great Britain, and this was proven to be completely untrue and unfounded. He is also a man who cannot agree with his own confrères in the S.P.C.A. Many of them have stated that they found him to be rather irresponsible. I want to assure the hon. member that personally I cannot accept many or most of the statements made by this gentleman.

In so far as the consumption of fish by seals is concerned, the quantity has been confirmed by our own scientists. The gentleman is quoting parts of a paragraph which he has been using many times since last spring, but the facts are that our own scientists have confirmed the amount of fish consumed by adult seals, as I have stated earlier.

The hon. member has also made reference to the McIvor report as have other hon. members. This report has been received by the government. It covers the problems of the freshwater fish of the Great Lakes. It will be studied carefully and further meetings will be held with the industry and the provincial governments, which have a special interest in the application of this report. Following these meetings the government will decide what action should be taken. I find this report to be quite complete and I hope the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox will read the full report because I do not think a judgment can be made solely on the basis of the press release which was issued at the time. I think that the whole report should be studied before an opinion is reached.

The hon. member for Comox-Alberni has also made some points regarding the operation of the fisheries officers, having to do in particular with pollution in certain areas. He has asked me for detailed information on this matter and I hope I will be in a position to supply him with it shortly.

The hon. member for Fraser Valley mentioned the plea of the gill net fishermen of the Fraser river. I am sure he understands the situation better than I do because he is more familiar with it and he knows that for

conservation purposes we have to control the fishing seasons. If my information is correct, one of the reasons for the closing of the Fraser river at this time was to permit the run of certain species of salmon known as chums which was very low and needed to be protected.

The hon. member for Kootenay West, the hon. member for Northwest Territories, and other hon. members mentioned the problem in the sports fishery. I am sure hon. members are fully aware that just about a year ago at the initiative of the federal Department of Fisheries a special sports fishery committee was formed in British Columbia. I think it consists of 12 or 15 members who have not been selected by this department but who have been appointed on the recommendation of different societies such as the fish and wild-life society and others. Regular meetings are being held in order to discuss the relationship between the sport and commercial fishery and to arrive at satisfactory conclusions.

The hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg raised the very important question of the 12-mile fishing zone. As I have already stated, we are now taking continuing and urgent action in order to arrive at a solution of this most complex problem. He asked what are the proposals which we are making to the United States and what are the objections of different countries. First of all, what we have to take into consideration are the treaties which are in existence and which affect such countries as France and the United States. We also have to take into consideration the historic rights of many countries, and these are very complicated. We have to say if we recognize certain rights and we have to determine what those rights are. I am sure that we are close to arriving at a satisfactory solution of this problem.

The hon. member has also referred to the tuna operations by the *Golden Scarab*. I am not satisfied with the operation of the *Golden Scarab*. I would have preferred the new tuna fishing vessels to operate in Canadian waters and deliver their catch on Canadian territory. However, this was almost impossible because of our lack of facilities for processing and the far distances where tuna fishery is possible.

A new tuna processing plant is now under construction and about to be completed in the Champlain industrial park of Chamcook, N.B. It is reported in today's *Globe and Mail* that tenders have been awarded to the Yarrow Ltd. shipyard in Victoria, B.C. for the construction of two 200 foot long tuna fishing