

this is a loss today, and has been through the years, of \$5 million a year to our fishermen and we are appropriating around \$400,000 a year. Would your department or the commission be prepared to make an attack in Lake Huron if the money was available?

Dr. SPRULES: Well, I am not really in a position to answer this question. The commission made their decision to completely—

Mr. MURPHY: They made their decision based on the amount of money they had available, didn't they?

Dr. SPRULES: In the original phases of this commission, they had no indication of how much they should spend or how much they could spend; they were always given what they requested.

Mr. MACLEAN (*Queens*): I think it is fair to say, Mr. Chairman, that money is a very important aspect of the program, but it is not the whole answer. There are other considerations, such as the availability of scientists with the required qualifications, and the results of experiments. It is well to do an experiment on a reasonably small scale in order to determine whether it is going to be successful or not. In other words, you must have some program which has at least a fair promise of success before you are justified in spending huge sums of money and great effort.

It is not just simply, in my estimation, the amount of money required. Had there been an endless amount of money available from the beginning of the program I think that is fair. There may have been some stages, or some speeding up might have been achieved by the expenditure of much increased amounts of money, but it would not be at all in proportion to the success which would be achieved. One has to spend as much money as can be reasonably justified by the results.

As progress is made there may come a time when we will be requiring a much larger amount of money, and that might even be the very near future, if experiments with the lampreyicide which Doctor Sprules has mentioned prove to be completely effective. Especially in the early stages, money alone is not the critical factor. I think that is the thinking of the commission.

Mr. CROUSE: On that point, Mr. Chairman, I have one question on the assumption that the big fish eat the little fish: In your investigation, Doctor Sprules, could you tell the committee, has there been any natural enemy found for these lamprey which could be introduced to eat the fish, without eating the other fish?

Dr. SPRULES: Mr. Chairman, there have been one or two animals found, the northern pike and some of the fish-eating birds; but the quantities are very very small and we have not found any animal which is using lamprey, either the small lamprey or the large, as a really major part of its diet.

Mr. ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, are there any lamprey fished commercially? There are a lot of newcomers to the country who eat the lamprey.

Dr. SPRULES: Mr. Chairman, practically all of the lamprey that are in good condition at any of our barriers are utilized by some of the new Canadians who are used to eating pickled and smoked lamprey in their own countries. The Latvian groups are particularly interested in getting any of the lampreys that are in good condition.

Mr. ANDERSON: Have you found that the lamprey feed on anything else but fish in the adult stage?

Dr. SPRULES: Mr. Chairman, I am not familiar with any other organism in the water which has been preyed upon by the lamprey.