

Supply—Fisheries

that province does not seem to want to be involved too directly with the fishing industry.

I know of no cost sharing program with the province of British Columbia, though we do have a cost sharing program with the University of British Columbia and on a limited scale with the industry. One which was mentioned a little while ago is the dogfish experiment, and we have programs of that kind. We are also negotiating with the representatives of the fishing industry on the west coast large scale experiments with groundfish. These will be cost sharing programs between the government and the industry direct. The hon. member will remember when we passed the fisheries development act that I was asked by many hon. members to include the operations of private companies. Due to the amendment I accepted this would now be made possible.

● (9:50 p.m.)

Mr. Howard: So that all is not sweetness and light in the government of British Columbia. Perhaps I understood the minister incorrectly in his opening remarks but I thought the gist of his words related to the relationship between the government of Canada and the provincial governments, and that their activities were co-ordinated in a remarkable manner. I presume that the minister exempts British Columbia from his opening remarks.

Mr. Robichaud: Not altogether, because we have a federal-provincial committee. There have been meetings between my deputy minister and senior officials of the government of the province of British Columbia. I assure the hon. member that we are seeking much better co-operation than existed in the past. On my visit to Victoria last year when I met with two provincial ministers we discussed not only the Stellako problem but the whole problem of log driving in British Columbia rivers. That is an example of the type of co-operation which we are seeking, and were I able to table the correspondence it would prove to the hon. member that we are offering all kinds of co-operation.

Mr. Howard: When I referred to remarkable co-ordination and that British Columbia was exempted, I was referring to my own province and not to the minister or the government of Canada.

Mr. MacLean (Queens): I just wanted to make certain that the minister was clear about my remarks to do with the use of aircraft in sealing in the gulf of St. Lawrence. I was thinking not only about the sealing regulations but also about the flying control governing

the aircraft. I thought my remarks had been understood, but perhaps I should take the matter up with the Department of Transport.

I have a brief question on item 5. If my memory serves me correctly, when some members asked in the committee last year why the department's telephone costs had risen when another department of the government had said that it would introduce a new system of government telephone tolls which would effect great savings, the answer that was given was that the estimates for last year had been printed or devised before those savings became apparent and that is why the telephone costs were higher than in the previous year. I see in these estimates that these costs have again risen to an abnormally high figure. I am wondering how the government is saving all this money when its telephones are costing so much more.

Mr. Robichaud: I can answer this question briefly, with a word of explanation to the hon. member. It is true that under the new system normally our telephone expenses should have gone down; but with the establishment of new services, particularly in the development field, we have officers in the field with whom we have to keep in almost daily contact. Hon. members will appreciate when they ask me questions that often I do not take time to write, and then to wait for an answer. I ask my deputy minister particularly, or my senior officials to contact our area directors by telephone. The same applies for instance to the present problem that exists on the west coast. I have tried as much as possible to be kept advised almost daily. This may be done only by telephoning involving, naturally, extra expenditure. That is the main reason for the increased expenditures on this particular item. Probably we are using the telephone more than we used to in previous years, and I do not object to this practice.

Mr. Howard: When the minister attended the fisheries council meeting in Montreal a short time ago one of his comments had to do with his recent trip to the Soviet union. As I interpret his remarks he had his eyes opened and understood better some matters which existed, especially in the field of international co-operation, research and the like. Under vote 5 I see there are listed various international commissions, one of which is the North Pacific Fisheries Commission, or the treaty between Canada, Japan and the United States. For some time we have advocated that there be attempts to bring the Soviet union into that treaty, if it desires to enter. Because the