

## Government Organization

12 miles of the Canadian coastline. The Russians have been observing our 12-mile limit so they are within their rights, said the minister. That is just a lot of rot, and the minister knows it. It is just a lot of bunk. The Russians have been observing our 12-mile limit, he says, and I have no quarrel about that statement being factual. But this simply means that the Russians have not gone in further than the 12-mile fishing zone which exists at the moment. But what about that area in Queen Charlotte Sound to which the hon. member for Coast-Chilcotin referred? What about the area which would be encased by a line drawn between the upper end of Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands? This is the area we are talking about. We are not talking about the 12-mile limit which exists now as an extension of the sinuosities of the coast. There was no question of the Russians establishing historic fishing rights within our 12-mile limit as it exists today, and for the minister to have referred to that was, I suggest, an attempt to evade the facts, the use of a red herring to draw attention away from the point at issue.

The Soviet Union is certainly in a position of being able to establish historic fishing rights in an area we might include as territorial water if we were to draw straight baselines from headland to headland. The minister will not deny this; it has been documented on more than one occasion.

Perhaps I can sum up no better than by quoting from the publication *Pacific Troller* of February-March, 1969, because there is an article here which puts the matter in its correct terms as far as the fishermen of British Columbia are concerned, as far as British Columbians and all Canadians are concerned and as far as the minister ought to be concerned, too. Beginning at the bottom of page 3 of this publication, we read as follows:

To us, Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands are not mere pinpoints of rock on the horizon, but two large segments of our mainland stretching along two thirds of our coast—not barren rock, but a continuation of our mainland populations, industries, business and security.

To us, a mere gap of water between these two large bodies of land does not constitute a freeway for any foreign nation to legally enter, rape our fisheries and endanger the defence of our domains, from the security of a narrow strip of international water. To us, those waters lying within the outside headlands of Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands are our waters and we should declare our legitimate and exclusive right to utilize them for the security of our outer and inner domains, for commuting between two areas of our province, for harvesting our fisheries and for conservation of our fisheries.

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• (9:50 p.m.)

It is too bad the minister did not say that and do something about it.

[Translation]

**Mr. Corbin:** Mr. Chairman, after speeches by five or six hon. members, I realize that several of my ideas and opinions have already been emphatically stated.

I personally feel that the merging of the Departments of Fisheries and Forestry is a step in the right direction to work out a closer control on the rational development of our natural resources. I agree with some of the comments made by the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose) although I do not always share his opinions.

The natural balance with regard to the development of our forests creates serious conservation problems. I live in one region where lumber operations are sometimes done in an intelligent manner and always on a large scale, but sometimes with the most serious consequences for this natural balance.

For the past twenty years, freshwater sport fishing has declined considerably in our area because of the lack of consideration on the part of some developers who have no respect for nature and demolish practically everything in their way. The result is that our lakes and rivers and their fauna are on the verge of disappearing.

In my opinion, the stocking of our lakes and streams—not their poisoning (untranslatable pun on “empoisonnement” and “empoisonment”)—should go hand in hand with the rational development of our forest resources. Creating and developing fish hatcheries ought, or at least should, closely follow lumber operations. I realize that many officials do not quite share this opinion.

Fortunately, considerable progress has recently been made in that respect in New Brunswick, through the establishment of an important salmon breeding station at Macataquac. Consequently, two smaller trout breeding stations had to stop their activity and since then my area has been left without any suitable stocking facilities.

My own province of New Brunswick is also faced with the problems of fish extermination, owing to the uncontrolled use of insecticides to exterminate the spruce budworm. And heaven knows how much irreparable damage has been brought about by that practice which seriously affected the balance in nature. And, eventually, let us make no