

*Commercial Fisheries Development*

New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and I take this opportunity to put in my plea on behalf of Atlantic salmon.

We extend to the minister our good will on this legislation, which is comprehensive. It is something that seems to be needed, but we will have many detailed questions to ask about it. Again I ask the minister to consider holding an extensive study into every aspect of Atlantic salmon, a species which has largely been forgotten in the modern world, but one unsurpassed in world fishing.

**Mr. Robichaud:** Mr. Chairman, may I briefly reply to the hon. member. I am sure he is aware that in connection with the Mactaquac project on the Saint John river there will be undertaken the largest, full-scale program of salmon research in the country. The proposed hatchery will be unique of its kind on this continent and will probably be administered by the department's fishery research board. It is likely that it will be the largest undertaking of its kind on this continent to deal with salmon research.

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** I thank the minister for his remarks. I know the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton has more knowledge than I on this matter, but in spite of the scope of this project many who live on the upper reaches of the Saint John are pessimistic about the effects of the project. It is already known that Beechwood itself has already had tremendous effects, and no matter how dams are cleaned they have not helped. However, I hope the project the minister has mentioned will be successful.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, I am beginning to suspect that the hon. member for Saint John-Albert is trying to provoke a debate. I would be quite content to hear him and the minister argue about which stream in New Brunswick produces the best New Brunswick salmon, but when the hon. member starts to talk about some piddling little fish down in Saint John harbour being the best fish in the country, he is taking in a lot of territory, and one could take those as fighting words. However, Mr. Chairman, I am not sure how far you would allow such a battle to rage before suggesting it did not deal with the legislation before us.

I shall discuss the question with the hon. member at some time and place, and content myself now with the suggestion that one of these days he visit the coast of B.C., particularly my constituency, and treat himself to the pleasure of some real salmon.

However, I would not want any of these remarks to be taken as suggesting that as a member of parliament I am not willing to lend my support to any measures sponsored by the department to improve the quality and abundance of Atlantic salmon, because we all recognize the value of salmon to our fishery, be it on the east or west coast.

• (8:20 p.m.)

I believe, Mr. Chairman, the bill which we are considering now is perhaps the most specific item, at least so far as consideration in this house is concerned, that we have had since the federal-provincial fisheries conference of a year ago last January. Certainly I am quite sure all members of the house welcome the advent of this bill as a concrete indication of a forward move, in the direction that was plotted at least in a preliminary way at that conference so far as fisheries development is concerned. I am inclined, of course, to wait to see how this bill works out in operation before giving it undivided praise. In saying that, I think it is clear it is a bill which depends in large measure for its success in practice upon some measure of co-operation with the provincial authorities of the various provinces of Canada which have a commercial fishery resource which can be exploited and developed.

I feel it is a little complicated, perhaps, that we are considering this bill in the house at the same time we have before the Standing Committee on Fisheries the estimates of the minister's department for the current year. There may be some advantages, however, in that. Certainly one of the questions I should like to ask the minister, now that this bill is before us, and to which he might give some reply before we go out of committee, is one which I might have asked at the hearings of the standing committee, when the estimates are before it. I note that in the current year's estimates there is an item of programs and projects shared by the provinces, in the amount of \$1,130,000, which represents a substantial increase from the total under the similar heading of last year.

One of the questions I would like to have answered is whether or not the passage of this bill will result in increased amounts in shared-cost programs with the provinces over those which are provided for in the estimates now are under consideration. I think that is a question the answer to which would give us some indication of the significance and scope of the program envisaged through introduction of this bill. I assume the amounts