

these interested parties are astute businessmen, one can readily draw the conclusion that Nordair and Air Canada services from Hamilton are not related.

**Mr. Kempling:** Oh.

**Mr. Bockstael:** The sale of the shareholding of Air Canada in Nordair is a matter now under consideration by the minister. This disposition question is a complicated one, but it is hoped a solution will be found soon. However, it is clear the presence of Air Canada in Hamilton, whenever that may occur, will not have any effect on the proposals now before the minister, nor on any course of action the minister may choose to follow in the matter of disposing of Nordair Ltd.

FISHERIES—CLOSING OF FRASER RIVER, B.C. FISHERY—  
REQUEST FOR TABLING TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody):** Mr. Speaker, as I rise in my place this evening to express my concern for the British Columbia salmon fisheries, the fisheries in general, and the gillnetters in the Fraser River in particular. I should like to take this opportunity to welcome the parliamentary secretary back from the west coast. He complained to me a little earlier that he felt a little red-eyed, that it was a long trip. I should like to tell him that some of us do it every weekend. So, while we are compassionate, we do not have any particular compassion for him at this moment.

I think he can probably emphasize and underline the fact that it is not inaccurate to say that the salmon industry is probably experiencing its worst year in the last 25. I think he has ample evidence of that. Anyway, I should like to suggest to him that of all the people in the industry, probably among the most distressed, depressed and even oppressed, are the gillnetters in the Fraser River. Last year by this time they had more than 17 openings and had captured something like their average for the last four or five years, 15,000 fish, out of the early run. This year when the river was slammed shut in their faces, because of insufficient escapement of stocks, they caught some 2,600 fish.

● (2210)

That is a very serious matter for these people. They have bills to pay. They are last in line, and because of bad management practice, in order to ensure escapement they just had the door closed and they had no way to recover the amount of money they were expecting in order to discharge their responsibilities as heads of households and to pay off their capital debts in terms of equipment.

The recent closure of the Fraser River was bad enough in terms of the chinook or spring fishermen, but in addition the river's inlet has been closed. Many of those gillnetters would have moved, but the river's inlet has been closed at least temporarily, and perhaps even permanently, so that option of moving in order to recover income is not available to them.

This is a brand new policy in respect of the fisheries. I do not know how we can really argue with it, except perhaps to

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express our concern for those people who have been disadvantaged. The new policy seems to be, let the escapement in first and then do the fishing. It seems to be to let the required number of fish escape to the spawning grounds and then do the fishing. That policy seems intelligent, but it creates a great hardship.

The same thing is occurring on the Nass River. While the Nass River is not usually available to gillnetters, because they do not move there from the Fraser, that is a new policy which will cause some upset, at least initially.

There must be something very wrong with fisheries management on the west coast. As a former investigator under the licensing program, Sol Sinclair, said, we are in the midst of a dissipation of resource rent because of overcapitalization. What that means in English is that because of the necessity to provide better and more efficient gear we are spending more money than the resource is providing. We have too much expensive gear chasing too few fish.

A prime example of a very good fishery is that of Barkley Sound, but I heard today that vessels costing over \$100,000 each are catching 30 and 40 fish a day. That is a serious matter; it is not something you can laugh off.

We are spending millions on fisheries management. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans' blue book budget account this year, not all spent on salmon I hasten to add, is something like \$366 million. What is the purpose of this great expenditure? What is the purpose of ten floors of fisheries offices in Vancouver? The purpose is to ensure, if not an increased escapement, a stock of fish on the west coast for our people to harvest. There is an attempt to justify this expenditure on the basis of preserving what we now have, but we are not doing that and that is why everybody is particularly alarmed.

We now have bays being leased to fish farmers farming salmon. We have killed off our wild stocks and we have spent millions on salmon enhancement; we have done all kinds of good things, yet the stocks are declining. We have 3,000 people working in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans with an annual budget of \$366 million, and our resource is declining. Something has to be wrong. I do not see how we can justify this. What are we spending this money for? This expenditure is not succeeding in terms of improving the salmon stock.

Let me give you some figures from the department's own records. These figures relate to the early runs of chinook in the Fraser, which usually end about the end of July. In 1954 there were 44,000 caught; in 1964 there were 36,000 caught; and in 1974 there were 15,000 caught. That was the average for the last five years. This year there were 2,600 caught. Something has to be wrong. What has happened, and who knows? Perhaps it is the result of the interruption or interception by the Americans, except that they are not fishing this year so we cannot blame the Americans. Perhaps we might have blamed them in years gone by, but not for this year. Perhaps it is the result of pollution from the pulp mills or from the sewage dumped into the river by the city of Kamloops, or other cities dumping sewage into the Fraser. That is perhaps true. Perhaps