

*Government Organization*

working together for conservation purposes, generally.

The amalgamation of the two portfolios, as I said, makes eminent sense to me for a number of reasons but principally because so much in conservation involves forests, fishing and water. With this joint portfolio it is you who will be able to bring new life—

**The Deputy Chairman:** I regret that I must advise the hon. member that he must address the Chair and not the minister directly.

**Mr. Grocs:** I apologize, Mr. Chairman. It is the minister who will be responsible for the various conservation programs. I am most impressed with what has been done recently and I trust it will continue at an accelerated pace in the future. It certainly shows great promise if it continues to increase productivity at its present rate.

Finally, I should like to remind the minister that in future plans an oceanographic institute is to be established in the Victoria Esquimalt harbour area. I hope these plans will not be allowed to remain dormant for too long. An oceanographic institute in Victoria similar to the one in existence in the Bedford Basin at Halifax will be of great benefit, not only to our community but to Canada and the world at large.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Chairman, I believe my colleague, the hon. member for Fraser Valley West set out very clearly and succinctly a number of points about which we are greatly concerned now and have been for some time. I want to touch on only one of the items initially raised by the hon. member for Fraser Valley West. But before I do so, I would like to make a brief comment in passing about the reference to the salt fishery by my friend, the hon. member for Victoria. I am sure he knows, as should everyone else on Vancouver Island, that there is a tremendous amount of abuse of our fisheries by people from the United States, almost with the aid and succour of the customs officials one would think. It is common knowledge that a number of United States citizens, some of whom even boast of it, supplement their pension income by coming over from Port Angeles to Victoria and engaging in sports fishing activities off the Qualicum Beach, Campbell River area. These people drive mobile campers and engage in a process of catching salmon by the dozens and canning them within these trailers or campers. Then, they take case after case of salmon back to the United States.

In many instances, they sell the canned products in the United States and boast about this means of supplementing their pension incomes. This practice has been going on year after year. No one knows the amount of fish that is caught in this way because it is done to some extent illegally and by subterfuge. The fisheries department knows about this, the conservation officers know about it, the provincial government knows about it, the customs officials know about it, and the general public knows about it, but no one does anything. It goes on and will probably go on this coming year. I am sure the minister has heard about it. With all the value that the sports fishery may have, this practice is destructive because it is an extraction from a resource that is already presumably overfished to a large extent on a commercial basis. Commercial fishermen whose livelihood depends on salmon find that their fishing season is curtailed, but right out in the bay or in the harbour they see so-called fishermen engaging in a semi-illicit commercial canning operation the products of which are taken back to the United States. So, with all the concern about the sports fishery, I think some concern should be shown about this practice.

However, the item with which I wanted to deal relates to the point raised by my colleague, the hon. member for Fraser Valley West. I refer to the straight baselines and the 12-mile limit, a point which was underscored by my friend the hon. member for Coast-Chilcotin. I think it is perhaps an almost accepted fact of political life that members of the opposition can spend many months and years in parliament complaining about a particularly grievous situation, raising questions about it and proposing solutions. However, when a member on the government side engages in the same sort of condemnation of government indifference, there is a tendency for people to sit up and take notice. The matter is extremely important. Because of the way in which the hon. member for Coast-Chilcotin approached it, I think the house owes him a debt. We should be grateful to him for having developed this into an almost non-partisan complaint. Ever since 1964 when the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act became law, we have been making speeches in parliament and outside it and we have been asking questions of the government as to just when the straight baselines on the Pacific coast would be drawn. For years, we got answers from Mr. Paul Martin that we could not decipher, but none the less they were