

Those three matters were the only ones I wished to bring to the attention of the minister at this time. Any other matters can be dealt with later. So far as the Social Credit members are concerned, I understand that our intervention in the debate on these estimates will be limited almost to my remarks.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the house leader might not be interested in a luncheon recess?

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, we would be quite agreeable. However, it might be possible for the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg to make his remarks before the committee rises.

Mr. Crouse: Later.

Mr. McIlraith: Then I suggest we rise, report progress and when the honourable Speaker is in the chair ask for the suspension of the sitting until two thirty.

Progress reported.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker I should like to ask that we suspend the sittings of the house until two thirty.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Do members give unanimous consent to suspending proceedings until two thirty?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

SITTING SUSPENDED

At 1.10 p.m. the sitting of the house was suspended until 2.30 p.m.

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at 2.30 p.m.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Batten in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

1. Departmental administration, including grants and contributions as detailed in the estimates, \$1,552,000.

Mr. Groos: Mr. Chairman, I am going to be very brief. I have three points to make while we are on item 1. One of them has already been covered by some of the speakers who spoke this morning. I am referring to the seal hunt in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The minister has already made some remarks on the report I think all hon. members have received from the humane society of New

Supply—Fisheries

Brunswick which gives a very chilling description of a seal hunt in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. I am not in a position to say how accurate it is. The minister has said that it is not accurate. I remind the minister that I have asked him to be kind enough to make arrangements for me to accompany him or to go with some of his officials to the next seal hunt in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. I should like to see for myself what goes on and I think other members of the house would also like to go. So I shall leave the matter of sealing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence with these few remarks.

Next I want to move to the general subject of conservation, which is very close to my heart. I understand the problem in British Columbia better than in the other parts of Canada. I suggest that the time has come when federal-provincial consultation should take place on the matter of regional conservation boards that would look into the whole question of conservation, including basins, watersheds, estuaries of rivers and their approaches. This will not only require joint consultation between federal and provincial governments and their officials but also must take into account commercial interests such as logging, mining, pulp and paper operations and so forth which have such an impact upon conservation measures in a province.

I will not go into details. I shall try to leave scope for other members to speak, but I do suggest that the time has come when regional conservation boards embracing federal and provincial officials, commercial operations and sports and commercial fishermen should be set up and set up soon. It is a very much needed requirement and will be welcomed by the people in these areas who rely on the federal government to take the initiative in instituting such boards. It is a requirement which cannot be filled unless the federal government takes the initiative. I urge the minister to do so at the next opportunity.

The last thing I wish to say, Mr. Chairman, concerns a local matter. I believe it was brought to the attention of the minister last summer during the salmon fishing season that in the British Columbia area, particularly off the lower end of Vancouver Island where the international boundary line crosses through or comes very close to some of the better salmon fishing areas, a number of so-called sport fishermen from the United States are evading the Canadian fishing regulations.