

*Supply—Fisheries*

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

Item agreed to.

**The Chairman:** This completes the estimates of the R.C.M.P.

**Mr. Pennell:** I thank the committee, Mr. Chairman, and I am sure all members will agree it was not a design on my part that these estimates should be overlooked so that the debate could be prolonged.

**The Chairman:** The committee will now proceed to the estimates of the Department of Fisheries.

## DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

1. Departmental administration including grants and contributions as detailed in the estimates, \$1,387,000.

**The Chairman:** Shall vote No. 1 carry?

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, I thought the Minister of Fisheries would make an introductory statement.

**Mr. Robichaud:** Mr. Chairman, following a commitment made during the question period I wish to correct a C.B.C. news report this morning which said that the quota of 50,000 seals had been filled last night. This is not true. I immediately asked officials of my department to contact the C.B.C. and ask them to make a correction. At noon I listened to the C.B.C. news again, but unfortunately the correction was not made. At 2 p.m. I contacted the area director in charge of the sealing operations and I was informed the quota of 50,000 seals would be reached before dusk this evening. I immediately issued instructions to close the season on white coat seals at the end of operations on this day.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, according to the rules we have about two and a half minutes to deal with this department. I have no desire to make an examination in detail of its operations, something which could better be done when discussing the estimates for the next fiscal year in the committee to which those estimates will be sent. But there are certain aspects of the department, in relation to the picture which it occupies in the minds of the government as a whole, that require urgent discussion before the current estimates are passed. A rather gratuitous contribution to the discussion in this chamber last night by the government house leader stole a bit of my thunder in this connection. However, since the government took office I have become increasingly concerned that the Department of Fisheries seems to be an orphan

[The Chairman.]

among all the government departments. Matters concerning fisheries resources and potential fishery resources apparently receive little attention from the government.

I have before me a copy of the Canada Year Book for 1961, and at page 596, under the heading "Commercial Fishery Resources" I find these words:

The waters of two mighty oceans—the Atlantic and the Pacific—and the most extensive inland system of rivers and lakes in the world provide Canada's fishermen with valuable harvests. The annual catch of some 2,000,000,000 lb. of fish and shellfish has a marketed value of more than \$200,000,000.

In the 1962 Canada Year Book, at page 568, under the same heading I find these words:

The waters of two mighty oceans—the Atlantic and the Pacific—and the most extensive inland system of rivers and lakes in the world provide Canada's fishermen with valuable harvests. The annual catch of some 2,000,000,000 lb. of fish and shellfish has a marketed value of more than \$200,000,000.

At page 606 of the 1963-4 Canada Year Book I find the following words:

Canadian fishermen reap the harvests of two mighty oceans—the Atlantic and Pacific—and the most extensive inland system of lakes and rivers in the world. The annual catch of some 2,000,000,000 lb. of fish has a marketed value of more than \$200,000,000.

● (5:00 p.m.)

Then, in the Canada Year Book for the year 1965 at page 622, under the heading Commercial Fishing and Marketing, I find the following words:

Canadian fishermen reap large harvests from two mighty oceans—the Atlantic and the Pacific—and from the most extensive system of lakes and rivers in the world. The annual catch amounts to some 2,000,000,000 pounds of fish and shellfish, which has a total marketed value of about \$250,000,000.

Mr. Chairman, I suppose I should have brought down a somewhat larger number of issues of the Canada Year Book, but they are rather heavy volumes. What I should like to do is send to every member of the present government a copy of the Canada Year Book with the suggestion that they read the section concerning commercial fisheries, because it is becoming increasingly evident to me that most of the members of this government do not know we have an Atlantic and a Pacific ocean as well as the largest system of inland rivers and lakes in the world, at least in so far as it is evident in the activities and the policies of the Canadian government. I only wish they would take the trouble to realize that, in addition to having quite a number of