

*Fisheries**[Translation]*

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, first I would like to tell the minister that I am pleased about the general contents of Bill C-38. It is somewhat rare to have unanimity in the House about a bill. I therefore hope that the information given to the public by the press will be objective, and that the Canadian people will understand the importance of the subject covered by the bill and, in general, cooperate so that this legislation may be applied with good results.

The bill aims at protecting our fisheries, at protecting the fish resources against poachers, especially professional poachers. There are some in all areas of the country. There are also a few small-time poachers, but they do not cause as much damage as those covered by this bill. There are also the polluters, those who use all sorts of chemicals in their industries and who do not care about the effects of the products used during manufacture. In my opinion, this legislation will invite them to be more cautious in the use of chemicals and more concerned about the damage that this waste material can cause.

There are also the destructors of the environment. They are not mentioned in the bill, but I think that the minister could examine this question. I refer to the polluters who damaged the environment by an inconsiderate destruction of our forests along our rivers or around our lakes. I have often witnessed destruction caused by the development of our forest resources, and even though this development provides employment for workers, it has disastrous consequences for the local environment: the fish disappear.

These are all matters that we should consider seriously. I remember, Mr. Speaker, when spring came when I was a child, we could witness nature's awakening and it was marvelous. On my parents' farm, there was a beautiful river which flowed into Lac-à-la-Truite. There were a great many lakes in my area and I used to accompany my parents, my older brothers and my friends on fishing expeditions: never would we come back with an empty bag; in fact, we always came back with large quantities of fish, while abiding by the laws, and it was interesting. Mr. Speaker, I remember that when, as a boy, I would go and get the cows, I always brought my fishing rod and tried my luck along the riverbank, so that there were always four or five fine trouts for my mother. She liked them very much and ate them with great appetite, and I knew this was one of the greatest pleasures I could give her. Last year, I went back to that area; again I tried my luck casting my line in these creeks and rivers, to no avail. There is nothing, not a single fish left in Lac-à-la-Truite or anywhere else. I realize that the company which operates the asbestos mines in those areas had to do it. They emptied the lake which is called Black Lake. There were natural resources there and the largest deposits of asbestos are under the lake. But, in developing that natural resource, they completely destroyed the environment: lake Williams, Black Lake, Lac-à-la-Truite, all rivers and brooks. There is nothing left now because at that time the necessary measures were not taken to protect the environment.

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

It is as a result of intense industrial development that our rivers, our lakes, our brooks were gradually emptied out and that we have seen at the same time enormous social benefits disappear. Our children could not only enjoy during their leisure time the beauty of nature, but also learn what nature is exactly. They could spend hours fishing, those were healthy leisure times which did not cost much to society but were very rewarding. Today when we say to our children: Go walk in the forest, go fishing. Their reply is: "There is nothing anymore, you fished everything out, you massacred everything." They blame us, and rightly so.

Over the weekend, Saturday to be precise, I went with the chairman of the Montmagny-l'Islet Rod and Gun Club, despite the bitter cold, to visit the "big lock" as it is called in the area, in the beautiful nearby municipality of Cap Saint-Ignace. The lock was built through grants from the Department of Manpower and Immigration. Significant amounts were invested twice to build a dam to regulate the river and provide a shelter for fish and give local people in Montmagny and other towns a recreational forest area. I was disappointed to note that although the lock was very well built, the force of water at high levels caused it to flow around the dam, so that large basin has now disappeared. This is a very unfortunate, because there was a lot of fish, and the scenery was beautiful for canoeing. I promised the chairman of the Montmagny-l'Islet Rod and Gun club I would raise the matter at the first opportunity, and call this to the attention of the Minister of Fisheries and Environment (Mr. LeBlanc), so that funds can be allotted to repair the damage and restore that beautiful area. It is a real asset, a real encouragement to protect the environment, forests and wildlife.

I therefore welcome this opportunity, and I hope that the legislation can really open the door to a renewed effort to give better protection and get the people involved so that we may leave healthy environment to the next generation.

Yesterday, I also attended a maypole ceremony which, in our area, and probably everywhere else, consists in planting a tree to mark the end of an organization, of a series of meetings on a topic which may have been studied over a period of weeks. There again, this ceremony was held thanks to an assistance program.

Mr. Speaker, some may tell me that I insist too much on that program but I do so precisely because it gave such good results in my area that I want to talk about it and say to the government how much I appreciated it. Hundreds of young people, especially, attended that ceremony and I took advantage of it to point out to those youths how precious that tree, and the forest are to us; close by there flows a river towards the south. I also took that opportunity to invite the young, the whole population, to get together and see to it that the river, which has been polluted over the years, is cleaned up and become once again interesting, one in which nice fish may live again.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that last Thursday a 13-year old boy happened to spot a big 29-inch trout struggling to get free of the mud on the river bank. Then, coura-