

how this particular bill will aid and assist the Japanese to take over the industry in British Columbia.

There is also the thought in some areas that the Federal Business Development Bank and fisheries improvement loans, are in fact financing people who are fronting for the Japanese. There is a great deal of concern. I would ask the minister to tell us in British Columbia whether this front financing is taking place, if it will continue and what the prognosis is for the future.

There is also the presence in British Columbia of Japanese fishing companies and trading companies. The government has introduced a bill, the Bank Act, which will allow the Japanese banking community to come to Canada and particularly to British Columbia. Once these Japanese firms gain a foothold and begin to work together in British Columbia, there is the concern that they will, by helping each other, gain complete control of the entire fishing industry. I am very concerned for my riding and for the entire west coast fisheries.

I want the minister to state how this bill and the policies which he will develop will affect the eventual control of the fishing industry. I sincerely recommend that Garfield Weston and the Japanese should not be controlling that industry, but that, in fact, it should be controlled by Canadians.

There is another area of concern, which has been discussed by previous speakers who are probably better versed than I on the matter. However, there are a few examples I would like to present to highlight some of the things which were said by my colleague, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Miller) and other hon. members from British Columbia who have spoken. The topic to which I refer is management of the resource.

This bill will allow the government to lend money to build fishing vessels. Apparently the bulk of these loans in the past has been used in British Columbia. It is questionable whether this was wise or necessary. It is fine to build a fishing fleet in British Columbia, but people there are saying that there are not enough fish and that it is the Liberals' fault.

I would like to know how the government intends to come to grips with this problem. The management of this industry is concerned with such areas as salmon enhancement, conservation, allocation of the resource and licence limitation. I would also add, under this area, the business of the Indian fishery. I hope that the minister in his summary remarks, or perhaps in a policy statement at a later time, will comment on this subject.

The salmon enhancement program is a jewel in the crown of the fisheries department. The program is perceived as one of the most popular and most positive programs in British Columbia. Approximately one year ago the Department of Fisheries and Oceans tramped through the province of British Columbia touting this very successful program and asking for public input. They received public input. They received an expression of a few concerns. One is that the major hatchery program should, in the long run, be abandoned. We have concentrated our fishing production in a few small areas. Such concentration could be vulnerable to disease or environmental

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pollution and, in fact, might be lost. Some people went so far as to suggest that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans was plotting to get rid of the boat fleet, while at the same time placing the hatcheries at the mouths of the rivers to fish there.

● (1540)

A strange thing was happening, Mr. Speaker. In many small streams, aboriginal stocks were being wiped out as the vessels were required to fish intensively the hatchery stock. At the end of the Alberni canal there were originally diverse stocks of fish feeding into many streams and lakes. A hatchery was built at Robertson's Creek and now they have to fish right up the Alberni canal, almost on top of the hatchery, in order to make full use of it. In the process, steelhead and all the other runs have been wiped out. The aboriginal stocks are gone and we are left with the hatchery stock. If that should be struck by disease, then we have nothing. This is a serious concern which has been expressed time and time again and I am sure the minister is aware of it. I wonder what the minister sees for the future of this fishery which is so vulnerable.

Many people in my riding have brought up the question of the government's failure to be heavily involved in the general development of the enhancement program on the coast of British Columbia. The big hatchery program was in place before the salmon enhancement program came along and I do not think the department moved far beyond that.

In the communities of Bella Bella and Bella Coola and some Indian communities, the herring season was closed down and as a result the residents have not earned any income from that source this year. The price of salmon has also dropped dramatically and as a result their incomes are low. There is intensive logging in those areas. Unfortunately, the loggers are flown in from Vancouver so the Indian communities do not participate in the forest industry and remain dependent upon fishing. The forest and fishing industries conflict, however. In areas like the Kimsquit River Valley the fishing habitat will be so badly damaged that the runs will be light, and as a result the economic base of the communities will be affected. We have seen that happen in the Queen Charlotte Islands and other places. There are still a number of grandstand areas with major hatcheries. The whole process could lead to the depopulation of the coast of British Columbia. I call this to the attention of the minister and would be pleased to hear his response.

How does the minister plan to distribute the benefits that will accrue from the salmon enhancement program? The program itself is good but it has some very serious weaknesses, such as the way the benefits from the resource are allocated. Some very serious questions about this will arise in the future.

A colleague alluded to the problem of the penny-wise-pound-foolish approach to restraint. It appears that in the restraint programs there is cut-back in human resources which has affected the research program to support the salmon enhancement and other fisheries. As an example, a contract system was used for hiring researchers through a labour recruiting agency outside government. The agency would