12670 Ventura Blvd.,
North Hollywood, Calif.,
Sept. 10, 1953.

J. M. Buchanan, esq.,
c/o Messrs B. C. Packers Ltd.,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr Buchanan: -

I duly received your favour of the 31st ulto., and much appreciate your kindness in gratifying Mr Goodman's desire to revert to the use of that sort of caviar to which his nature had become accustomed.

I am also appreciative of your offer to advise me later on about the final results of the Fraser river runs. I am especially interested in learning whether the decreased water flow in the Nechako River adversely affected the migration of the sockeye salmon spawners to that area. Mr Royal prognosticated it would, in his very able review of the effects of the Alcan project in the Nechako river watershed and an article in the Pacific Fisherman for this month ascribes the loss of the Columbia river blueback run of 1941 to that season's spawners having entered the river when it "was running low and warm, due to the filling of the giant reservoir behind Grand Coulee Dam" and "stopped by high temperature, decreased oxygen and low stream flow". If similar conditions prevailed in the Nechako area in 1953 we can expect disastrous results to become evident in 1957. I doubt however, that we will learn much about it except from private investigators. It seems to be the policy of governmental authorities the world over to soft pedal all reports that adversely affect their own omissions and mistakes.

I would also like to see something done about providing sockeye fry with ample food on their fresh water feeding grounds. For nearly forty years I have advocated this, but although its success has been fully demonstrated elsewhere, especially with salmonoid fish, the authorities have up to the present ignored this very vital matter. On page 26 of the September Pacific Fisherman is listed what is sought by officials of the "Technical committee of the Corp of Engineers and Biologists of the Columbia River Research Project" in their study of that river's salmon fishery problems. Apparently no thought of food and feeding difficulties have entered into their calculations.

Thirty years ago Mr R. E. Clanton, then Master Fish Warden of the State of Oregon, was sent to British Columbia to examine and report on the Fraser River sockeye fishery. Regarding Quesnelle he especially mentioned how the loss of salmon stock in that area had been compensated for by an enormous increase in trouts, chubs and suckers. His report advocated the reduction to their former level of these enemy and competitive species and said this must be done before the salmon fishery could be reestablished. The authorities ignored his advice then (and still do so) although mankind has successfully increased and improved hundreds of other natural species both animal and vegetable, and governmental fishery officials themselves have demonstrated the like can be done with Pacific salmonoid fishes.

Up to fifty years ago a normal "big" year run to the Quesnel area approximated eight to ten million adult fish (half were caught en route and canned in the early cycle years of this century). Nature provided this supply and their presence did not adversely affect the lake feeding areas.

Early reports received this season indicate only about 10% of the available spawning beds in the Quesnel Lake vicinity are being seeded and from this start, it is anticipated an enormous increase of spawners will resort to that area in future years. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished for, but common sense indicates they should be provided with a sufficiency of food to accommodate their numbers. It may be four years more before the need is actually required but preparatory steps should be taken now. "There is many a slip twixt the cup and the lip" and it will be money well spent to insure the salmon fry of four

years hence with ample feeding grounds and an adequate quantity of food for their residence in fresh water.

The Chilcotin system appears to be another case in point. While I have never attached the importance to this area that others have ascribed to it, there should have been better results achieved from the egg plantings of 1941-45 and 1949 than proved to be the case. Some untoward occurrences seem to have interfered with adequate returns from the fry plantings of those years and I have the suspicion it has been competition for the available supply of food on the feeding grounds. It would be interesting, and I believe highly profitable, if this area was developed as a sockeye salmon proving ground for protection from competitors and increase in food supplies for salmon fry. If these efforts proved successful, the authorities would be forced to extend the system to all other areas on the Pacific Coast.

With kindest regards,

Yours faithfully