

interesting where he states the following at pages 132 and 133 of his report:

Taking a broad, national, long range view and looking at employment in its totality, the economist may be justified in contending that technology does not cause unemployment. Within the picture, however, technology may bring about individual cases of difficulty and hardships, cases which will be multiplied if the general demand for labour is slack.

Economists have focused attention upon the responsibility of government to act with vigilance and wisdom in creating conditions in which technological change may safely and advantageously be introduced. In that regard the role of government is at least twofold. It must be concerned on the one hand with employment policy, that is to say, with adequate policies of economic development to increase the total demand for labour. It must be concerned on the other hand with manpower policy—that is to say, with policies of manpower training, retraining and relocation to create a flexible and mobile work force with fully developed skills.

In his summation Mr. Justice Freedman expressed our concern, and the concern of the people involved in the catching, marketing and processing of salt codfish, over the impact the establishment of the Canadian Saltfish Corporation will have on their industry. We sincerely hope that many of the problems associated with the establishment of this corporation will be resolved satisfactorily, and that it will eventually fulfil its prime objective which is to bring about an improvement in the incomes of all those engaged in the salt cod fishery.

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I indicated support for this measure at the second reading stage and I do not intend to repeat the remarks I made on that occasion. I indicated there were some questions that should have been asked in the committee. Of course, a good many questions were asked there. As the House knows, some changes and amendments were made to the bill. I feel in its present form the bill is quite satisfactory. I suggest to the House it represents the beginning rather than the end of something. In other words, by merely putting into effect the words on this paper we really will not be doing very much. By this I mean that the form and substance given to the corporation personnel who will be responsible for managing it and carrying forward its operation will, of course, be the determining factor as to whether this is a beneficial piece of legislation.

• (5:30 p.m.)

I say on behalf of myself and my colleagues that we will be observing the operation and development of this corporation with interest.

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Canadian Saltfish Corporation

We will comment from time to time on its operation when we feel the circumstances justify comment. Having said that, since I should like to leave the way open for members who represent areas that are perhaps more directly affected by the bill than the one from which I come, I will conclude by indicating the support of our party for third reading of the bill.

[Translation]

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, as a member of the committee which studied the bill, I committed myself to making a few remarks on the motion for third reading.

When the bill was referred to the committee, I suggested several amendments, allowing the fishermen of the Gaspé peninsula to avail themselves in the near future of the facilities of the Canadian Saltfish Corporation and of the regulation of interprovincial and export trade in saltfish.

The bill, as submitted initially, tended to assist fishermen engaged in fishing on a non industrial or family basis. This traditional type of fishing is dependent on the physical capacities of the fishermen.

The volume of the catch as well as the volume of fish processed are directly related to the number of fishermen engaged in this occupation. Undoubtedly, this is what makes non industrial fishing a family undertaking in which women, children and older people have specified jobs.

Fishermen seem to be forced to fish to meet the needs of their family or community, not in any way to raise their standard of living or that of the province or country.

Since the end of the war, fishing has become industrialized in the Gaspé region, through new methods, modernized fish plants and a federal assistance program to promote the building of fishing boats and the construction of adequate harbours and wharves.

Non industrial and family fishing has almost disappeared in the Gaspé peninsula but it still exists on the lower north shore of Quebec.

The Quebec government appears to be willing to conclude an agreement with the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) in order to allow the Canadian Saltfish Corporation to exercise its rights and negotiate with fishermen of the lower north shore who live too far from processing plants. These fishermen have to cure and salt their fish and then they wait for weeks before they are able to sell it to the dealers trading along the coasts.