

Fisheries

The purpose and powers of this corporation are far-reaching. The authority of the corporation is set out in clause 7 of the bill on page 4 under nine different headings and comprises the following:

The Corporation is established for the purpose of marketing and trading in fish, fish products and fish by-products in and out of Canada and, in addition to the powers conferred by any other Act and by other provisions of this Act, has for that purpose power to

(a) buy fish and dress, fillet, freeze, package or otherwise prepare fish for market;

(b) buy, manufacture or produce fish products and fish by-products and package or otherwise prepare fish products and fish by-products for market;

(c) store, ship, insure, import, export, market, sell or otherwise dispose of fish, fish products and fish by-products bought, prepared, manufactured or produced by it;

(d) purchase, lease or otherwise acquire and hold, pledge, mortgage, hypothecate, sell or otherwise deal with any real or immovable property;

(e) establish branches or employ agents in Canada or elsewhere;

(f) invest any money in its possession or control that in its opinion is not immediately required for the purposes of its operations, in securities of or guaranteed by the Government of Canada and sell any securities so acquired by it and re-invest the proceeds thereof or any part thereof in like manner;

(g) borrow money from any bank upon the credit of the corporation;

(h) make loans of working capital on a seasonal basis to persons engaged in fishing for commercial purposes in a participating province; and

(i) do all such other things as are necessary or incidental to the exercise of any of its powers or the carrying out of any of its functions under this Act.

However, I would point out that in all of this part the bill refers to fish when defining the purpose and powers of the corporation, and it is not until you reach part III on page 9 that you find the following words:

In this Part except section 31,

(a) "fish" means round, dressed or filleted fish of any species enumerated in the Schedule—

So there can be no mistake as to the powers and purpose of this bill, I suggest to the minister that under part III, clause 20, the wording be changed to read:

In this bill except section 31 which deals with offences and penalties, for the purpose of this Act fish shall be freshwater fish of the kind defined in the Schedule of this bill.

This wording would be very definite and would take away any doubt with regard to the authority granted to the corporation under this bill.

Another question that arises covers import and export control and the authority granted

[Mr. Crouse.]

the corporation. In clause 21 on page 9 we read these words:

Except in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in any licence that may be issued by the Corporation in that behalf, no person other than the Corporation or an agent of the Corporation shall

(a) export fish from Canada;

(b) send, convey or carry fish from a participating province to another participating province or to any other province;

(c) in a participating province, receive fish for conveyance or carriage to a destination outside the province; or

(d) sell or buy or agree to sell or buy fish situated in a participating province for delivery in another participating province or any other province, or outside Canada.

● (3:50 p.m.)

I cannot but wonder whether this export-import control applies only to freshwater fish and fish from other countries or whether it also applies to saltwater fish shipped to markets in central Canada. The words here are quite definite:

No person other than the Corporation or an agent of the Corporation shall . . . (d) sell or buy or agree to sell or buy fish situated in a participating province for delivery in another participating province or any other province, or outside Canada.

I ask the minister this question: will it be necessary for Canadian saltwater fish processors to forward all their orders to the corporation for distribution to their customers in the four provinces and one territory, or will the supermarket chains and regular customers for saltwater fish products be permitted to make their saltwater fish purchases without going to the corporation? I point out in passing that the corporation would, of necessity, make a charge in connection with its part of the transaction thereby increasing the cost of saltwater fish to consumers.

There are other questions I could raise but these can be discussed in committee. Since we have never before witnessed a monopoly of this type in the fishing industry of Canada, I trust the minister will deal with some of the points I have brought up concerning matters which are vitally important to our fishermen, to fish processors and to Canadians generally who are interested in the economic well-being of this important primary industry.

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, I should like to compliment the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lang) on his venture into socialism. In 1945 or thereabouts, when similar legislation was introduced in Saskatchewan, the Liberals there said: "Ah, this is compulsion, this is communism." Well,