

Freshwater Fish Marketing Report

● (11:50 a.m.)

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, I am endeavouring to do just that. I appreciate your comments and I shall try to relate my remarks to the amendment. It is my understanding that the government of Canada is setting up this marketing board, in co-operation with the provinces concerned, in order to assist the fishermen in the marketing of their products so that they received a better price. In my opinion, if this board is to meet with any measure of success, it will require the complete co-operation of all the fishermen concerned.

This is a statement of fact borne out by events in every other industry. If I may give an example, at the present time there is a slowdown in mail deliveries in the Post Office Department. When labour is unhappy over wages or terms of employment it goes on strike, and we see a complete shutdown of the particular industry.

For these reasons we believe that the inland fishermen must be guaranteed a place on the board of directors of this marketing corporation as well as on the advisory board of the corporation. There is no provision in the bill to guarantee that the fishermen will be represented on the board. In our view one way to make sure that the fishermen will be behind the board is to guarantee their representation on the board. After all, if things do not go according to plan it will be fishermen themselves who will be the most seriously affected.

These are not my views alone; they were endorsed by the Minister without Portfolio when he spoke before the Committee on Fisheries and Forestry on January 28. At one point he said that he is fully on record in the house a number of times as indicating there should be adequate representation from the fishermen's groups on the advisory committee. Even the McIvor Commission report recommends that the membership of the board provide adequate representation of regional interests. I submit that one can rightly interpret regional interests in this matter to be directly applicable to the fishermen concerned. For these reasons I hope that the government will give favourable consideration to our amendments concerning actual representation of fishermen on the board of directors, and on the advisory board of this corporation.

Finally, I wish to refer to the financial control of the corporation. Clause 15 of this bill provides that the corporation is to be a

[Mr. Speaker.]

corporation within the meaning of the Financial Administration Act. Clause 16 provides that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) may make grants to the corporation up to \$100,000 for initial operating and establishing expenses, while under clause 17 the governor in council may guarantee and make loans to the corporation up to \$5 million. There is nothing in the bill—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It has been brought to my attention that the hon. member may be referring at this time to the second or third amendment, although I am not too sure whether that is the fact. I would remind him that we should discuss the first amendment, so perhaps he would make his comments on the second and third amendments when they are reached, I hope later on today.

Mr. Crouse: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of your ruling, having placed my case before the minister for the appointment of fishermen to the board of directors and to the advisory board, I will have further comments to make on the third amendment after we dispose of the first two.

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I shall try to confine my remarks to the substance of the amendment before us. I think the amendment is rather important, though I must confess, as it is written and as I try to relate it to the rest of clause 3, it is rather difficult to understand it clearly. Nevertheless, as I say, I believe it to be an important amendment, because if there is to be established a board of directors for this Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, I think it is essential and certainly worth while that at least some members of the board of directors be actively engaged in the industry itself.

As I construe the intent of the amendment moved by the previous speaker, the hon. member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse), it would seem that he is proposing in the amendment that of the members of the board of directors, which consists of nine persons, four be appointed from among those who are actually fishermen. If that is the intent of the hon. member's amendment, I think it ought to be supported.

On the other hand, if he is going beyond that and suggesting that a majority of the members, or that every member except the chairman or president of the board be chosen from those engaged in fishing, then it would seem to me a rather impractical proposition. Therefore I will proceed on the assumption that the hon. member is suggesting that three