

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

being held this week between representatives of the Japanese fishing industry and the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) for Canada. Yesterday, I asked whether the subject of dogfish would be on the agenda of these meetings. I hope that tonight the parliamentary secretary can provide confirmation of reports that the subject of dogfish and their disposition will be a matter of serious discussion at the Japanese-Canadian conference.

Dogfish are far more sinister than merely fish with a funny name. They are of great importance on the west coast. Dogfish are a resourceful, predatory species of baby shark. They are suspected of doing real damage to our salmon stocks. They are proven mortal enemies of our herring industry. It is safe to say that dogfish directly or indirectly exact an immense toll amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars, perhaps even millions, from our fishermen and those in the allied trades. The economic impact of dogfish is beginning to have serious repercussions on the west coast. It is to be hoped that an effective dogfish control program will be evolved without delay, hopefully through the development of an economically viable dogfish industry on the west coast. The industry, hopefully, can exist without the need of federal government subsidies.

It has been suggested that Japanese fishing interests be invited to harvest and process dogfish within the territorial waters of Canada or our exclusive fishing zones. I hope it will not be necessary—I think this feeling is shared by British Columbia members of all parties—to have them engage in the actual fishing. One can comprehend the fears of those in Canada's fishing industry who see dangers in this kind of precedent. Let harvesting and delivering of dogfish be carried out by Canadians. If economics will not support the establishment of a viable dogfish industry in Canada, developed by Canadians with processing carried out by Canadians, let the processing for the world market be carried out by Japanese factory ships or factory ships of other nations.

At one time dogfish were harvested profitably in Canada, primarily for the vitamin-rich dogfish liver oil. A profitable and useful industry existed on the west coast between 1920 and 1944. In 1944 the synthesized vitamins industry effectively displaced the need for dogfish liver oil and the industry was rendered non-competitive. It may be more than significant that during this 24-year period herring and salmon stocks on the west coast were far more abundant than they are at the

present time. In 1944 it was assumed that the dogfish was virtually extinct, but this ingenious, resilient fish has come back by feasting on the other treasures of the sea. Today the dogfish population on the west coast is back to 80 per cent of the 1920 population and constitutes a serious problem. The dogfish population is growing rapidly, so much so that whether or not a commercially successful program can be developed to reduce their numbers, with or without the co-operation of other nations, there must be a systematic counter-attack to reduce the toll exacted by this predatory creature.

Let us not be deterred by the failure, success or partial success of past programs involving various types of subsidies. In 1956-57, a \$10, a ton dogfish subsidy was instituted. Only 220 tons were processed. In the period 1958-62 various bounties were paid on dogfish liver with rather inconclusive results. In 1966 another try was made. I will not go into all the details because time does not permit but let me say in summary that it is encouraging to note the interest in the problem which has been demonstrated by the minister. We wish him well in his meetings with the Japanese this week. It is to be hoped that the precedent can be avoided of allowing foreign fleets to move into our territorial waters or our exclusive fishing zones. It is to be hoped that negotiations can be completed successfully with our friends from Japan which would see Canadian fishermen harvesting and processing dogfish with the resultant product sold to Japan and other nations. If this is not feasible, then let Canadians fish and deliver their catch to the Japanese who could do the processing.

These activities may require a degree of government support for a period of time. But this support could be minimized if, through research, we evolve new uses and new markets for dogfish. Perhaps we had better start by renaming the species. No one will rush to the grocery store to buy tins of dogfish. All sorts of suggestions have been proposed, but surely the name needs changing. Government dollar support combined with an all-out program of scientific and market research could reduce the population of the dogfish predator, help our salmon and herring industries, reduce fishing gear damage, and help our fishermen. As the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Borrie) proposed so constructively at meetings a few months ago, our unemployed herring fleet, representing a fantastic tie up of capital at the present time,