

*Government Organization*

Fish plant workers, who work 50 to 60 hours a week, were excluded from those provisions, and as a result it can be said that in Newfoundland the industry is being subsidized by the fishermen and workers.

The minister has been to fish plants. He knows that workers there have to stand at a table in the cold and damp for ten hours a day cutting fish that has been packed in ice in a trawler. It is the most difficult and uncomfortable type of work that a person could engage in. Yet these people are excluded from the minimum wage legislation in Newfoundland. I hope that the Minister of Fisheries will show a greater sense of justice and fair play to the fishermen and plant workers of Newfoundland than has been shown them by the government of that province.

I should now like to refer briefly to the centralization program in which the federal government is engaged co-operatively with the government of Newfoundland. To my mind the government has not taken sufficient precaution to ensure that the consequences of the centralization program are such as to improve the lot of the people who will have to be moved. I am very much afraid that the government of Canada has been hoodwinked in this regard.

I say that because in my view one of the principal features of the centralization program is that the administration of welfare programs by the government of Newfoundland is made easier. I urge the government to look very carefully at what they are doing here. After all, when human beings are moved from one settlement to another it is almost a forced migration. These people dare not resist the government since, owing to circumstances over which they have no control, they are totally dependent on the government. They are forced to move from villages and ancestral homes to centralized welfare ghettos—regrettably, that is what they are—where they very rapidly lose their dignity and sense of security, having been uprooted from their own homes and villages in which they grew up and in which they felt at least some sense of security both from the elements and from the bureaucracy.

I am not suggesting that everything about the centralization program is wrong; it has many good features. What I am suggesting is that human lives are involved in it. We are not talking about herding cattle into central areas; human beings are involved. It is not

enough for the minister to say that mistakes have been made but that the program is being improved all the time. I submit that not a single Canadian ought to be obliged to leave his home unless the government has satisfied itself of the wisdom of its action and has examined very carefully the social consequences flowing from this type of move as well as all other circumstances. In my view, those who have been moved find themselves living under conditions considerably below the standards they enjoyed in the villages from whence they came. I am concerned about the matter and I hope my remarks do not fall on deaf ears.

● (12:30 p.m.)

In his statement on February 20 the minister indicated that the government was contemplating bringing in a measure to set up a marketing board for salt codfish. We await the announcement of the establishment of that board with anticipation. To my mind, the fishermen of Newfoundland who catch and cure the fish have benefited little in the past 20 years from any advances made in sales of cod, largely because they are the victims of ruthless competition in this field. Our exporters who sell cod to low income Latin, Mediterranean and Caribbean countries have had to compete with highly subsidized exporters from countries like Spain, France and, I believe, Norway. A salt fish marketing board will cure this injustice. After it has been established I hope it will be permitted to come under the aegis of the Minister of Fisheries and not the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In my view, the peculiarities of marketing salt cod can only be dealt with adequately by the Department of Fisheries. All the same, despite the great promises in the new policy enunciated by the minister on February 20, I cannot help feeling concerned about the future of the salt cod industry. Steps must be taken to protect this important Canadian industry from setbacks it might suffer as the result of fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. The more quickly the minister makes his statement about the new marketing board, the happier I shall be.

I now wish to raise the matter of river wardens' pay. Anyone who has had the golden opportunity to fish for salmon in our rivers no doubt has come up against the river warden who must work 24 hours a day in season. Poachers do not operate in daylight, and our wardens have great responsibilities in conserving the fish stocks of our rivers. For their duties they are grossly underpaid, not having