

Fisheries

on a sound basis. Under the present circumstances the primary producer will not be able to obtain the maximum benefits for many years.

It is my belief that even with this marketing board there will be fluctuations in price. What may be necessary in conjunction with the operation of the corporation is a price stabilization board. This could be of assistance to the industry. One must be very careful in establishing initial prices for this product, just as with wheat. The initial price very often is not as high as the realized price. Having established a certain initial price it should not be possible during the following year to reduce the price because of greater competition or the unavailability of markets. The primary producer must have some assurance in respect of price and markets. The establishment of a price stabilization board might help this corporation in its infancy when it is spending money for the acquisition of the necessary operating equipment.

I wonder what the effect of the establishment of this board will be in respect of existing fish marketing boards such as the one in Saskatchewan. I imagine there have been some discussions in this regard. Perhaps some facilities will have to be taken over from the Saskatchewan fish marketing board or operated in co-operation with this corporation. I hope adequate provisions have been made to compensate equitably the people who have an interest in these facilities.

We must always consider employment opportunities for those people who reside in the areas to be affected by this corporation. I suggest that rather than establishing a bureaucracy to be administered from somewhere in central Canada great emphasis should be placed on hiring native Indians and Métis who, because of their locale and nature, are well suited for employment in this industry. There are many Indian settlements around lakes on the prairies. These people will not take part in the fishing industry because they feel it is a waste of time. In order to succeed in such a venture one must spend a great deal of money. These people feel that the cost and the effort involved cannot be justified by the return. There is not adequate compensation for their efforts.

In view of the fact there will be no competition in this field I hope a real effort will be made to avoid placing emphasis on the purchase of facilities. If it is found necessary the government should extend the time limit in

respect of the acquisition of necessary facilities by the corporation or in co-operation with existing authorities. We should not be too quick to establish a bureaucracy. We should do everything possible to assure a greater return to the primary producers.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that the proposal to establish this marketing board was presented by a minister who comes from a province where most elections have been fought on the basis of local reaction to crown corporations. I was pleased to see that the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lang) was not unwilling to present such a bill. I was equally surprised to hear another hon. member say that he is in favour of marketing boards. This is a very conservative attitude, but someone should always express such opinions.

I do not come from an area which produces a great deal of marketable fish. Most of the fish caught there are game fish. In northern Ontario as in Manitoba the potential production of commercial fish is greater than what now exists.

The government in drafting this proposed legislation has stuck fairly closely to the recommendations of the McIvor commission. The saltwater fisheries have reason to be concerned about the establishment of an inland freshwater fish marketing agency. The freshwater fishery in central Canada and central United States has not been a great threat to the production and distribution of saltwater fish.

● (4:50 p.m.)

I have for many years read with great interest the advertisements placed in farm papers in respect of frozen fish in bulk for shipment from the Winnipeg area to parts of Ontario and the prairies. I have noted that a great fluctuation has taken place in this regard. If we are to have a viable industry we must do something to stabilize the price of fish and perhaps develop a totally new type of industry.

I agree to some extent with the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski) that caution should be exercised in regard to heavy capital cost expenditures in the initial stage. We will have to develop in Canada a greater market for fish. When I first came to the house Winnipeg gold-eye was on the menu of the parliamentary restaurant at least once a week. I have not seen this fish for several years. I thought they were terrible fish to eat,