

Canada Weekly

Volume 8, No. 22

May 28, 1980



Ottawa, Canada

Canadian fishing industry looks to expanded market, 1

Japanese Prime Minister makes official visit to Canada, 3

Chrysler gets government assistance, 4

Scientists study Northern Lights, 4

New cable television technology gets assistance, 4

The Blood Reserve revitalizes its sluggish economy, 5

Advisory council on aging set up, 6

Canada-Brazil trade expands, 6

Gardening and rehabilitation stamps issued by Canada Post, 6

Condolence message, 6

Job vacancies record high, 6

News of the arts — exchange, film, prize, 7

News briefs, 8

Canadian fishing industry looks to expanded market

The Canadian fishing industry had a record year in 1979: record landings, record value, and record exports with Canada the world's leading exporter, said the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Roméo Leblanc, in a speech to the Fisheries Council of Canada in Montreal May 5. Excerpts from the speech follow:

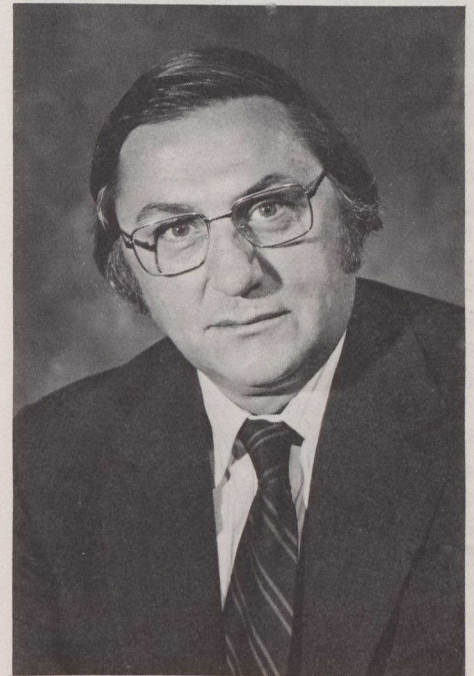
...The fishing industry is...a special case. Most industries by themselves settle out into their own form of stability. But when you have a common-property resource, owned by no individual, linked into a private-property fleet and private-property processing industry, stability becomes a difficult question. That's why the Atlantic industry in particular has a history of troubles and of out-migration, when a fishery fails or a plant closes down. Instability has consequences all the worse, when it hits an industry that's the only support of thousands of miles of coast and thousands of communities.

To my mind, it is unacceptable to let market forces play capriciously with the lives of so many people. Let the market work, yes, but make sure the Canadian industry has the strength to get the best advantage out of that market, and the strength to fend off trouble when it comes.

There are already enough things in the air — the cost-price squeeze, gloom and doom talk about markets — to arouse fears of a new round of instability....

There must be ways to strengthen the processing industry and banish the spectre of new crises. We've done many things to strengthen the fishing side. The 200-mile limit, control of licences, and improvements in scientific management mean less chance of weakness in the primary sector working up through the industry.

There are only two ways to get more out of a fishery: by volume, and by value. We're running out of the first way. There are fewer and fewer chances to increase volume. From 1974 to 1979, the catch of Atlantic groundfish increased from 418,000 tonnes to 686,000 tonnes, or 64 per cent.... In 1975, we said it would take five years to build back the groundfish. Well, they've almost built back. Except



Roméo Leblanc

for northern cod off Newfoundland, we can by and large expect no more than 10 to 15 per cent increases. But in any one year, natural fluctuations can drop the catch by 10 to 15 per cent. That means that in any future year, for most groundfish stocks, we can count on no greater a catch than we'll get this year.

Herring stocks on both coasts are looking troublesome again. And despite the future promise from enhancement, Pacific salmon will bring little good news this year....

When in 1975 we brought in the fishery policy that still applies, we said the 200-mile limit would be only the first step; we also had to re-work the industry in general, without dislocating people, in order to create more efficiency, better distribution, better marketing, and better

Late news

Quebecers have chosen to refuse the Quebec government a mandate to negotiate sovereignty-association. In the referendum held May 20, 2,171,913 (59.5 per cent) voted in favour of the federalists and 1,478,200 (40.5 per cent) supported the proposal of the Parti Québécois government of René Lévesque. Eighty-four per cent of the electorate voted in the referendum. A majority of French-speaking Quebecers voted to keep Quebec in the Canadian Confederation. The next issue of *Canada Weekly* will carry more details.