

*Fisheries*

Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce within three months after the end of each financial year, and compare the percentage of return received by the fishermen vis-à-vis the return which they formerly received.

At the present time the marketing of Canadian freshwater fish is of major concern to some 7,000 fishermen, more than 300 dealers, and close to 100 exporters. Most of the freshwater fish produced in western Canada and in northern Ontario, mainly pike, pickerel, sauger, lake trout and whitefish, requires the participation of all three levels. However, I note at page 11, clause 25, it is stated that this legislation applies to Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and the Northwest Territories, and that the provinces concerned must undertake to make arrangements for the payment of compensation to the owner of any plant or equipment in the plant which may be rendered redundant through the operations of the marketing corporation.

This section of the bill raises a number of questions. Since Manitoba, for example, has a large number of plants compared with Saskatchewan, what federal process will be used to equalize the cost of purchasing redundant plants in these various provinces? I should like to put this question to the Minister Without Portfolio (Mr. Lang) who is piloting this bill through the house.

Another question that comes to mind is the effect that this legislation will have on present plant owners in the provinces concerned. Who will decide, for example, which plants will be retained and which plants will be classified as obsolete? Will the owners of obsolete plants be given a time limit in which to bring their plants up to a certain standard before the government inspector steps in and declares the plant redundant? Is it the intention of the government to declare a number of plants redundant as soon as this legislation is approved and, if so, what preparations are being made for those employees in the plants whose livelihood will be affected? As we have heard today from the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), unemployment has reached dangerous levels, and so I ask the minister whether any plans have been made to take care of these people who will become unemployed.

I noted, for example, that under this legislation wide powers will be granted to the fish and plant inspector appointed by the Governor in Council. At page 12 of the bill the inspector is authorized, at any reasonable time, to enter any place or premises that he

reasonably believes is being used to store, pack, process or prepare fish for market or shipment, or any vehicle, trailer, vessel, railway, car or aircraft that he reasonably believes is being used to ship or convey fish to market. He may open any container found therein or examine anything found therein that he reasonably believes contains any such fish, and take samples thereof. He will have to be a very reasonable man. It seems to me that the government, by introducing this clause in the bill, is anticipating something less than 100 per cent co-operation from the fish processors and will be taking every possible action to control the entire freshwater fishing industry.

The entire bill is, of course, based upon the report of the commission of inquiry into freshwater fish marketing problems as submitted by Commissioner George H. McIvor, following his appointment in July, 1965. In his report, Mr. McIvor made 17 specific recommendations for the improvement of the freshwater fishing industry, and most of his suggestions are incorporated in the present bill. In fact, his first recommendation is that the interprovincial and export movement of fish and fish products and the sale of same for export or interprovincially should be prohibited except by the board, which should also have the authority to control imports. These recommendations are incorporated in the bill under clauses 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

The granting of an outright monopoly to the board covering the complete control of the import and export of fish in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, plus the Northwest Territories, raises certain questions. I was rather surprised at the answer given to the hon. member for Frontenac-Lennox and Addington (Mr. Alkenbrack) that the bill does not include the southern sections of Ontario. As I read the bill, and I have read it carefully from cover to cover, there is absolutely no mention of a definitive area in the province of Ontario being excluded. I would like further clarification from the minister at a later date on that particular point.

The granting of this monopoly compels all fishermen in these designated freshwater areas to sell their fish to the corporation, even though some of them residing on Lake Erie or adjacent to the United States border may prefer to continue marketing their catch directly to their old customers in the United States or in Quebec rather than through the corporation.