

Combines Investigation Act

species of fish contributes importantly to the economic life of many Canadian communities. In many areas it is the predominant source of revenue.

An important feature of this great national industry is that approximately two-thirds of its annual production is exported to markets outside of Canada. The fisheries of British Columbia, with which I am most familiar, provide no exception to this national pattern. Since the inception of the canned salmon industry in British Columbia in 1870 the industry has always depended on export marketing to absorb 50 per cent or more of its annual production. Up until the outbreak of world war II between 60 and 65 per cent of each year's pack was sold in export markets.

Farther along in the brief, it is pointed out, as I have previously mentioned:

For several reasons our industry has found that an industry approach to export marketing rather than an individual canner approach has enabled the canned salmon industry to compete successfully in export markets with the other canned salmon producing nations. I would enumerate these important reasons as follows:

(1) Canned salmon enjoys sufficient demand in the major markets of the world to qualify as a commodity of world trade and to have a world market price based on world supply and demand.

(2) Canada is one of four countries of supply, the other three being Japan, U.S.A. and Russia. The production of these countries in most instances has an equal or greater influence on world price structure than the Canadian production. The Japanese suppliers are organized into an effective export cartel. There is a "one desk" sales organization—

Mr. McIlraith: I wonder if the hon. member would permit a question?

Mr. Aiken: Yes.

Mr. McIlraith: Can he give us the page reference to the committee evidence from which he is reading?

Mr. Aiken: I am reading directly from the brief which was presented to the committee on June 22. What I am reading from the brief has been copied into the committee report at the bottom of page 266.

Mr. McIlraith: I think, in all fairness, I should point out that the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka is following precisely the practice to which the minister objected earlier.

Mr. Fulton: What minister?

Mr. McIlraith: The Minister of Justice objected to the reading from committee evidence at length.

Mr. Fulton: No, I pointed out when I was accused of having selected certain passages, that hon. members opposite had placed so much of the committee evidence on the record I could hardly be accused of being selective.

Mr. Howard: You mean one hon. member.

Mr. Aiken: In order to satisfy the technical point raised by the hon. member for Ottawa West, I would be glad to continue my reading

from the committee evidence at page 266. When I was interrupted, I believe I was quoting from paragraph 2.

There is a "one desk" sales organization and prices are set to secure for Japan the share of total world demand which is required to move the annual pack. As there is virtually no domestic market for Japanese salmon it is nearly all destined for export markets. Russian canned salmon prices are named by a state trading agency.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I should like to go on with the reading of the brief. I have these passages marked in the original brief, and I will try to find them in the committee evidence. The next section I should like to read is at the top of page 268 of the committee evidence, and reads:

I believe that the practice of the canned salmon industry in making important decisions on export marketing on a group basis has been fully justified by the results achieved. The record of the British Columbia salmon canners in the competitive field of export marketing has stood the test of experience. Under very difficult circumstances, access to important markets has been retained or expanded. Industry planning has never lost sight of the fact that the availability of export markets is of great importance to the industry. Consequently, today, Canadian canned salmon enjoys as secure a position in world trade as at any time in the history of the industry. It is my sincere conviction that such a position is very much in the national interest.

Then I should like just to quote the evidence from the fisheries council. At the bottom of page 268, in summarizing, they say this:

It is my sincere conviction that it would be a serious error to handicap Canadian exporters by imposing restrictions on their marketing activities, the successful prosecution of which is so important to all Canadians.

I think all of us in the committee were impressed with the evidence by the fisheries council of Canada. Following the presentation of the brief there was a good deal of questioning as to the effect which the export market limitations would have on domestic markets. The fisheries council brief was followed on the same day by the brief of the council of forest industries of British Columbia. Here again, Mr. Chairman, as I have marked the original brief I will just try to find the evidence given in the committee. I cannot find it at the moment but I have the place marked in the original brief presented by the council of forest industries of British Columbia in their comments on the export trade.

During the three years that have elapsed since the present government took office, the Right Hon. the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Transport and other ministers have stressed on numerous occasions the desirability and necessity for action leading to or directed towards the improvement of Canada's export trade and correcting the deficit in such trade. The major export industries in British Columbia, of