

*Fisheries*

and interference with the rights of the subject. I believe something must be done to protect not only the freshwater fishermen but all our fishermen against the vagaries of the market, and I suggest very seriously to the Minister without Portfolio that some consideration be given to amending the proposed legislation in such a way that the fishermen, those who are primarily interested in the matter, will be guaranteed representation on this board.

**Mr. Mark Smerchanski (Provencher):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak in favour of Bill C-148, to establish a freshwater fish marketing corporation. Such a corporation is long overdue. It is necessary and desirable for the benefit of the fishermen on our freshwater lakes. When we consider the fact that most of the fishing operations on the lakes are divided between frozen fish products and fresh fish products and when we realize the difference in price is some six or seven cents a pound it becomes evident that this places a heavy burden on the fisherman who is entitled to a higher return. Aircraft transportation has to a great extent been brought into play in relation to the fishing operations on the freshwater lakes. We find that these fishing operations are highly specialized. Fish are transported from the lakes by air in the form of fish meal, fillets and headless. The weight factor is very important.

It is almost mandatory that the fisherman should have a ready market for his product. In the past he has lost a great deal of his product by reason of not being able to sell it when he brought it to the market. This freshwater fish marketing corporation should resolve this problem and provide the fisherman with a better return for his product. The industry needs this type of control. In turn the fisherman will profit from the possibility that some of the by-products which are not considered to have much value because of air transportation costs will likely revert to the fisherman and produce additional income. The fisherman will be able to have centrally located filleting plants and will be able to avail himself of proper freezer facilities in certain areas.

I wish to commend the minister for bringing this bill before the house because it will co-ordinate efforts and will further the ability of the fisherman to increase his income. He will be able to market his product through the corporation at a higher price. There will be an orderly control over the marketing of

[Mr. McQuaid.]

fish from fresh waters, especially in western Canada.

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a few moments to express some of the fears I have in connection with this board. While the operation of such a board may be desirable—at least in the early stages we hope this will be so—I have always had some reservations about marketing perishable products when there is a possibility that too much emphasis may be placed on storage facilities, transportation and marketing rather than on providing the primary producer with an adequate return for his efforts.

In Saskatchewan we have had some experience with such boards. Some producers at times have been satisfied with the situation but, on the other hand, such boards have tended to monopolize the market too much and at times the fisherman was not really aware whether he was obtaining the maximum benefit from the board. The Indians and Métis who are engaged in fishing tell me they often feel it is not the fisherman who benefits from such boards but rather the operators of air lines or other transportation companies that are involved because these companies ensure for themselves an adequate return while the fisherman receives the crumbs from the operation.

• (4:40 p.m.)

It is now obvious that the existing provincial boards will no longer function in a really competitive manner, and since the grant which will be available to this board will be only about \$100,000 I am somewhat concerned that this will not be sufficient to establish the board, pay for its operating expenses and salaries, and at the same time compensate the operators of the filleting plants or storage facilities. It is obvious that the corporation must operate at a profit and use its profits to provide filleting plants, storage facilities and transportation. I suggest that in its early stage the corporation will concentrate on establishing these facilities. It will be interested in providing modern equipment. This will take a number of years to accomplish. As a result there will be a period of time when the fishermen will not receive the maximum benefits of this legislation. I would like to see some arrangement made whereby the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) would provide increased grants from the consolidated revenue fund so that the industry could operate