

**CANADIAN LIVESTOCK FEED BOARD****ASSISTANCE IN STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS**

On the order:

House again in committee of the whole on Bill C-218, an act to provide assistance to livestock feeders in eastern Canada and British Columbia.—the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development

**Mr. Winkler:** With unanimous consent I wonder if we could not consider the second item of business previously indicated, namely the fisheries estimates, in view of a situation that I think is reasonably well understood.

**Mr. McIlraith:** There is no objection to that course if it better meets the convenience of certain hon. members who are directly concerned in the estimates of the fisheries department.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**SUPPLY**

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Batten in the chair.

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES**

**The Chairman:** Shall vote No. 1 carry?

1. Departmental administration, including grants and contributions as detailed in the estimates, \$1,552,000.

**Mr. Robichaud:** Mr. Chairman, when the estimates of the Department of Fisheries were discussed before the standing committee on fisheries last March I made a detailed statement on the status of the department and its activities.

I am at the disposal of this committee. I am prepared to proceed at once with the consideration of estimates, but if it is the will of the committee that I make a statement on the up to date activities of the department I am also prepared to do that.

**Mr. MacLean (Queens):** Perhaps the minister would like to make a brief statement on the first item. I think that might be helpful to the committee.

**Mr. Robichaud:** Mr. Chairman, I will do the best I can to cover briefly each of the activities of the department. As I said in my report before the standing committee last March, the fisheries of Canada are undergoing great expansion. This is true of fisheries all over the world. In many countries the development of fisheries is proceeding at an amazing pace.

*Supply—Fisheries*

Growth and change are also taking place in Canada, with new facilities and plants being built at an unprecedented rate. I am glad to say that our expansion is orderly, and I hope it will remain so, for the benefit of the fisheries. We must guard against the dangers of too rapid expansion, while at the same time taking advantage of every opportunity to provide increased returns to those investing their capital and to those whose livelihood depends on the resources of the sea and our inland waters.

The most spectacular expansion in fisheries development at the present time is taking place on our Atlantic coast. There are also strong indications of an enlarging off-shore fishery on our Pacific coast. This growth is the result of the over-all program drawn up nearly three years ago by the federal and provincial governments, and it has expanded since then. We find that we must adopt progressive measures very quickly in order to keep up with continued scientific and technological advances that are being made.

● (12 noon.)

An increasing demand for fishery products and the keen competition for the stocks of common fishing grounds are the spurs forcing government and industry into the efforts that are resulting in this dynamic expansion. During the next ten years our Atlantic fishing industry alone will spend about \$300 million for modern offshore fishing vessels equipped with the latest mechanical and electronic gear. There will also be substantial investment in shore plants and facilities because the advances being made in the finding and catching of fish are being matched by an evolution in unloading, storing, processing and transportation methods. New and improved boats must also continue to be built for the inshore and near-offshore fisheries.

We have scores of projects under way in our long range program, some of them being carried out by the industrial development service of the department, others in co-operation with the provinces and with industry.

I should like to make brief reference to two important fisheries conferences held this year. One was the Canadian Atlantic offshore fishing vessel conference held in Montreal in February, which was of great value to our offshore fishery. It showed, among other things, that mechanization and automation do not only make fishing operations more productive but can save wear and tear on our human resources. It is possible to make work aboard ship much less strenuous for fishermen and at the same time provide them with