

Combines Investigation Act

months the moratorium under the Combines Investigation Act.

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the minister for his explanation. This is a matter which is of grave concern to the fishermen and the fishing industry of B.C., and had the minister not explained it I was going to point out this is something which was in a state of moratorium. Though I am quite willing to support early passage of the bill I think we should have some assurance that the present state of affairs, which I for one think is highly unsatisfactory, will not continue forever. I am reasonably satisfied with the statement made by the Minister of Justice and would be prepared to support the passage of the bill. However, I know that the Minister of Fisheries is interested in this matter and he may have some additional information he can give us. He may be able to tell us how soon he expects to have the information provided in the joint federal-provincial report which the Minister of Justice mentioned. If the Minister of Fisheries is in a position to make a statement to the house along these lines I for one would be interested to hear it.

Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): I wish to state that the commission referred to by the Minister of Justice has completed its studies and submitted a preliminary report. This was about three weeks ago. We expect that the final report and recommendation will be ready early in the new year. This report will naturally have some bearing on a final decision with regard to this matter.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.

On clause 1—*Application of acts to fishing agreements.*

Mr. Patterson: I do not intend to delay the committee but I would point out that the unions concerned with the various fishing agreements on the west coast are desirous of bringing legislation into line with the calendar year. It has been pointed out that this provision runs for 18 months and will expire in the middle of the calendar year. Does the minister feel convinced that before the date set out in this measure is reached he will be in a position to clarify the situation and put the legislation on a permanent basis?

Mr. Favreau: I am confident this will be the case. Instead of providing for the moratorium to expire at the end of the calendar year we have provided for a period of 18 months to end on June 30, 1966, and the reason for this was twofold. First, it will undoubtedly cover the period of the arrangements relating to the two fishing seasons and, in the second place, it will in 1966 provide sufficient time to enact whatever complementary or remedial legislation will be necessary. In other words, the arrangements being made at the beginning of the fishing season it would have been not abnormal but unnecessary to let the moratorium go until the end of the year because in the meantime it would not have been possible to provide for remedial legislation. But in practice this covers the arrangements between the fishermen and the fish purchasers and processors both for 1965 and 1966.

Clause agreed to.
Title agreed to.
Bill reported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the said bill be read the third time? By leave, now?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Favreau moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**TRANSFER TO PROVINCES OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHARED PROGRAMS**

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure of an interim nature respecting certain conditional grant and shared cost programs that have become established federal-provincial programs to enable such of the provinces as may wish to do so to assume financial responsibility for such programs within the ambit of national objectives; and, in respect of those provinces that assume such responsibility for specific programs, to provide a tax abatement under the Income Tax Act, a tax equalization payment and, where necessary, an adjustment payment, or to provide a cash payment in lieu of a tax abatement for particular programs or as cash compensation in other cases; and to authorize such agreements as may be necessary to ensure that the continuation in the interim period of any such program by provinces with such federal assistance will accord with national objectives; and to provide for other related or incidental matters.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.

[Mr. Favreau.]