

Freshwater Fish Marketing Report

[English]

INCOME TAX**COLLECTION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TAX
BEFORE APPROVAL**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the Department of National Revenue is collecting income tax at the source which appears to be based on the inclusion of the social development tax, and in view of the fact that the bill for this tax is not yet even before us, may I ask the minister how long the government intends to collect a tax that has not been approved by parliament.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Not very long, Mr. Speaker. I hope to have it approved by parliament in the very near future.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the government facing the possibility that its bill might be defeated?

Mr. Benson: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It was last year.

● (11:40 a.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**FISHERIES****ESTABLISHMENT OF FRESHWATER FISH
MARKETING CORPORATION—REPORT
STAGE**

The house proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-148, to regulate interprovincial and export trade in freshwater fish and to establish the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, as reported (with an amendment) from the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore) moved:

That Clause 3 (1) be amended by placing a semicolon after the word "province", on line 14 and by substituting a comma for a period after the word "years" and adding thereto the following: "and shall be actively engaged in the fresh water fishing industry as fishermen".

He said: I thought that the Minister without Portfolio may have some statement to make on the amendments proposed, but in the absence of any statement I would like to

[Mr. Trudeau.]

make a few comments at this time. Under the old rules, the resolution preceding the measure calling for a Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation was debated in the house, and the bill received first reading on December 18 of last year. On January 16 the bill was again before the house and was given second reading and referred to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

On Tuesday, January 28 the standing committee met and a clause by clause study was given to the bill. The bill was amended and reported to the house. But I would point out that only those amendments which were made in committee by members supporting the government were accepted by the committee, even though the amendments moved by the opposition members who served on the committee were in keeping with the minister's stated intent, and were therefore basically in line with the government's policy and its program. I hope it will be possible for every member of this house to read the evidence as tabled by the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry respecting Bill C-148 as it occurred on January 28. This evidence indicates the basic weakness of the committee system. It indicates the committees' lack of authority to suggest, to approve, to improve, to amend or to recommend changes in the legislation brought before us. To date, the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry has served only as a rubber stamp for this government's legislation. Its hearings have been ineffective, frustrating and time consuming.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to interrupt the hon. member to remind him that according to our new rules the only matter before the house at the present time is the particular amendment proposed by the hon. member, and I doubt very much whether this should be the occasion to speak on the general procedure followed either by this or by any other committee of the house. I think the remarks which the hon. member is making now—which I am sure are important to him—might better be made at the third reading stage of the bill. If the hon. member has a protest to make, in my view it should be made when there is a general debate on the bill which, according to the new rules, should take place on third reading. I realize that some of the remarks he has made until now are introductory in nature and I assume that in due course, and perhaps very soon, he will submit to the house his views in connection with the amendment he proposed.