

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THE SENATE

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, April 23, 1953.

The Standing Committee on Canadian Trade Relations which was empowered to inquire into and report upon the development of trade between countries signatory to the North Atlantic Treaty, and with other countries of the free world, met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. McLEAN in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, as you know, this is the fourth meeting of our committee since reference was made to us of a resolution introduced in the Senate on February 12 and, after debate, was passed, and referred to us on February 26th.

This morning we are highly honoured to have with us representatives of the Fisheries Council of Canada: Mr. P. L. Whitman, Halifax, Past Director; Mr. W. E. Simpson, Halifax, Director; Mr. Spencer Lake, St. John's, Newfoundland; Mr. J. Norman Hyland, Vancouver, Vice-President; Mr. R. G. Smith, Vancouver, Immediate Past President; Mr. Roger Hager, Vancouver, Director; and Mr. H. W. Welch, Fairhaven, New Brunswick, Director. Whoever the spokesman is to present the brief, we will be very glad to have him come forward, and any others who would like to say anything can follow Mr. Smith.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Mr. Chairman, before the gentleman starts to speak, I rise, just for myself to apologize to you and to the others if I leave at 11 o'clock. We have another and very important committee of which I happen to be a member, and I promised to be there. I will stay here as long as I can.

The CHAIRMAN: We understand that, Senator Haig.

Mr. P. L. WHITMAN: Honourable Senator McLean, I noticed that in your list there the name of Mr. Francis Millard, the President of the Council, was apparently omitted.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. Mr. Francis Millard, of Vancouver, B.C., is with us this morning too.

Mr. WHITMAN: Mr. Chairman, honourable senators:

INTRODUCTION

The Fisheries Council of Canada appreciates the opportunity afforded it to appear before this committee. The matter which you are investigating, of encouraging economic collaboration between the countries which are supporting the North Atlantic Treaty, is an important one to Canada's fishing industry.

We do not come before you with specialized knowledge of the basic factors affecting this trade, i.e. exchange and currency problems. We are, however, in a position to discuss with you the marketing of our fishery products in these countries, in a practical way, and shall be glad to try and answer any questions the members of the committee may care to ask. We trust that this brief review of the position of this industry's trade with these various countries may prove of assistance in your study of this question.

On the currency aspects of this trade, may we say, however, that we support the simple economic truth that countries cannot buy from us unless we buy from them.