

other alternative. Certainly I have been very strong on the matter of productive incentives. I was glad to have the support of the hon. member for Bonavista-Trinity-Conception on this; that is, that we would provide assistance in some way by industrial loans or in some other form to help them increase production. Two other suggestions were made which unfortunately are long range. One was that there might be a very strong promotional program in the United States to induce people to eat more fish. The matter of consumption is a key consideration. Then there is the matter of one desk selling for cod blocks. This I believe is also very important. Then there is the possibility of pooling trawler operations. Instead of each plant operating its own trawlers, there might be a co-operative trawler operation.

As my hon. friend will appreciate these things do not solve the problem we have here and now. This is why I have been endeavouring to find a formula that will give us, as a government, the ability to offer the kind of assistance which I readily agree is necessary. I heartily concur with those who say this ought not to be a partisan or a political issue. I understand that the representatives of the trade are meeting next week in Ottawa. I shall be very happy to arrange a meeting for them with anyone, in an effort to explore this further in order to see what kind of interim solution might be found. For myself I have no concern about the future of the fishing industry. I think there is a two or three year hurdle which we have to get over. I subscribe to the view of the Minister of Fisheries that it can be self-supporting in time. In the interim we have these problems. I suggest we are looking at every possible angle in order to achieve some kind of interim solution.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Chairman, if we are looking for a short term solution I find it difficult to understand the situation in respect of the sale of the 4.4 million pounds of salt cod to Biafra, in which the suppliers received approximately \$27.50 for the commodity while the fishermen ended up with an average of \$12 or \$13 for 100 pounds. How can we reconcile this variation and the fact that there was no thought for the inshore fishermen while the suppliers received good prices?

Mr. Jamieson: I believe I should ask my colleague the Minister of Fisheries to answer this question specifically. I am on the record as indicating that the situation which he has properly outlined reflects a very wide gap in the whole process of buying and marketing

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fish. My view is that this can be solved only by some sort of marketing effort. Perhaps the minister would be able to answer that question further.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Chairman, may I ask another question—

The Chairman: Order, please. I should like to point out to the committee that I have on my unofficial list the names of eight hon. members who would like to speak this afternoon. If these questions are continued at this time it will interfere with this list. However, I certainly will recognize the hon. member.

Mr. Lundrigan: I believe the minister indicated he would take another question.

Mr. Jamieson: One more.

Mr. Lundrigan: I think perhaps for the record it would be wise if he could clarify the statement in respect of welcoming views from anyone about short term solutions. In that regard he really contradicted the minister, who said that we can forget about anything until March 31. This was contained in the telegram he sent to the fisheries people. I am sure that either the hon. member has not told us exactly what he wanted to tell us or he has intentionally avoided the issue in the hon. member's statement.

• (4:20 p.m.)

Mr. Jamieson: I do not think there is any suggestion of that kind, or any contradiction in respect of what was asked. As I understood the minister's reply—and of course he is perfectly capable of replying for himself—he was talking about the 1969 program. We are working on that. If you will remember, the program last year came into effect in May. I personally recognize the fact that there is a difficult situation in respect of the whole picture, and I certainly think the minister would be delighted if someone could come up with a formula which would solve this matter. I do not know what that formula is at this moment.

Mr. Carter: Yesterday in the house in the absence of the Minister of Fisheries my leader and several of my colleagues asked questions regarding the very serious situation developing in Newfoundland as a result of several of our fish plants being forced to close up shop, as it were, for economic reasons. This is seriously affecting directly and indirectly the livelihood of many thousands of my fellow Newfoundlanders. If these closures