

Combines Investigation Act

object too much because if they will consider the relative amount of time taken in this chamber they will find the time I have taken is negligible. I believe that government members also have a contribution to make and, having put the situation clearly on the record, I think there is every justification for the committee to pass this particular amendment.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, inasmuch as the last two, or three—

Mr. McIlraith: Three.

Mr. Howard:—readers, or perhaps I should say speakers, have referred to me and what I said, I think perhaps it is only fitting that I should say a word or two in reply. It is still our contention that this is not the place to deal with this particular problem, and I think there is sufficient evidence to support that view which can be found in the evidence of the witnesses who appeared in support of those with a specific interest in the export trade and who advocated some reference in the act to protect them in respect of their activities in conspiring to fix prices in the export market. Perhaps I might be permitted to read a few short references. I will not do so to the same extent as hon. members who have preceded me.

I wish to refer to the evidence of Mr. Hyland as found on pages 282 and 283 of the proceedings of the committee, No. 4. The hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond made some reference to questions found on this page and I should like to carry on. The witness was being questioned by the hon. member for Acadia. Incidentally, the hon. member for Acadia had been asking Mr. Hyland certain questions about the functions of the fisheries association, how it operated and what relationship there was between its arrangements with respect to export prices and its arrangements, if any, as to domestic prices. The passage reads as follows:

Mr. Horner (Acadia): How do these same companies arrive at a price for the Canadian market?

Mr. Hyland: I do not know whether or not I am in a position to discuss this. Certain allegations have been made against the industry in that regard. Mr. Macdonnell, of course, is very aware of them.

While the use of the name "Macdonnell" would indicate that Mr. Hyland was referring to one of the members of the house, I think he was perhaps referring to Mr. MacDonald, the director of research and investigation.

Mr. Drysdale: No, that is right.

Mr. Howard: The hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond says "That is right". What does he mean?

Mr. Drysdale: I believe he was referring to the hon. member for Greenwood.

[Mr. Drysdale.]

Mr. Howard: That may well be. I continue:

The Acting Chairman: Is it under investigation now?

Mr. Hyland: It is not under investigation, but we are still awaiting the outcome of hearings.

The Acting Chairman: Perhaps under those circumstances the witness should not be asked to make any statement.

However, this theme was developed regardless of whether Mr. Hyland wished to make any statement. In any event, at an earlier stage of the proceedings, to which I will make reference, Mr. Hyland did mention the close relationship between the export price and the domestic price: I continue:

Mr. Horner (Acadia): I am not going to try to draw out information which may be detrimental to you in any investigation. I just wondered if it would not have an effect if they knew at what price company "A" was going to sell its product overseas. They would know for what company "A" sold its product on the Canadian market, and that would pretty well narrow it down. They could say that company "A" would sell its product within two or three cents of such and such.

Mr. Hyland: Since 1953 I believe we have successfully divorced those two areas of marketing, domestic and export. What the individual companies do in the domestic field is their own prerogative and there is no exchange of information or opinion in that area.

Perhaps it is quite true there is no exchange of information or opinion in the domestic area. I submit there does not have to be. The exchange of information has already taken place with respect to the export field. That is where the exchange of prices, statistics and so on takes place for the purpose of establishing a uniform price for the sale of any particular pack of salmon. However, as found on page 267, Mr. Hyland was then presenting his formal brief. He had read the letter from the Japan Canned Salmon Sales Company known as the cartel and was dealing with important reasons why there should be an industry approach to export marketing. He went on to say:

My experience in the marketing of canned salmon leads to the conclusion that the domestic price of any commodity which is exported in material quantity cannot be isolated from the world price. This is true whether the commodity is fish, lumber, pulp, copper, aluminum or newsprint. In this connection it should be emphasized that the factors of world supply and demand can work to reduce domestic prices as well as increase them.

Then he goes on to give examples which occurred in the period 1947 to 1953 when the domestic prices of canned salmon increased a certain percentage as compared with the increase in the combined food commodities index. The point here is that on the one hand Mr. Hyland says they have successfully divorced the relationship between the conspiracy in the export market concerning the prices at which they sell and the prices at which they sell on the domestic market; that they do not exchange statistics in so far as the