

*Supply—Fisheries and Forestry*

group of vessel owners, many of whom will be fishing companies. The big corporations, the well financed companies, will be in a position to purchase class A vessels. They can even afford to buy them, hold them out of use for a while, retain the licences and use them at a future date. The main matter that particularly disturbs private fishermen with limited resources is that few of them will be able to compete under the kind of licensing arrangements that are forthcoming.

The third point of disturbance is that because class A boats with licences attached are limited in number, their price will be so high that only large fishing companies will be able to purchase them. The fishermen fear the concept of vertical integration such as has developed in the forest industry, whereby a company will own the boats and the canneries and will wholesale and market the produce. This is likely to occur in the fishing industry. When we have a situation such as exists in the forest industry, where there is vertical integration, I feel that the much praised concept of free enterprise and free competition no longer exists. Such a situation leads to the control of an industry by a relatively few companies and is ultimately more costly for the average citizen.

The next point is that this type of vessel price-kiting can lead to such an extra investment in vessels and equipment that it will eventually affect productivity. As you increase your investment in a particular industry and your production, your crop, as it were, remains relatively the same, productivity is bound to go down. In fact I am told that this has already happened in the fishing industry because the minister has said that there are too many fishermen chasing too few fish.

Finally, fishermen are concerned about what provisions are being made for their retraining and to provide them with a measure of mobility, if they are going to be displaced from the fishing industry by these new regulations.

Through you, Mr. Chairman, I wish to advise the minister that the fishermen in my area are so concerned about this matter that they have asked for a meeting next Friday, a week from today, to see what can be done to humanize these regulations. This is a matter which the minister and I have discussed previously, and I feel certain that he will consider it in all seriousness.

The minister has said that everyone agrees to licensing limitations, except perhaps the

Prince Rupert Co-op, and that only the union objects to this form of licence limitation. However, this is not completely compatible with my information. As the minister discovered in Prince Rupert recently, other groups are beginning to have gnawing doubts about the effect. I have heard that fishermen using trawlers and seiners are no longer in complete accord with these regulations, and this is something which should be taken into serious consideration. Many of the trawlers and seiners were out at sea during the various deliberations that took place when the licensing regulations were proposed initially. I am certain they would like to review this whole matter, and I would hope a thorough review will come out of the deliberations of the fisheries committee when it travels to hold meetings on the west coast as it plans to do.

What are the alternatives to the method of limitation proposed by the minister? We might consider licensing individuals who are committed to the industry. I am not talking about moonlighters, those people working normally in other jobs who come into the fishing industry, work at it for a while, take the cream off the top and then go about their other business. I would suggest that such people should go sport fishing. This seems to be the kind of hobby approach we are facing in the fishing industry, but perhaps I do the minister a disservice by treating his suggestion frivolously because I too think there is much to be gained from his suggestion that the sport fishing industry has a lot to offer by way of profit to those engaged in it and to various related industries.

I would point out that the fishermen's union proposes a five year moratorium on licences and that the renewal of a licence be granted on the basis of the catch of a particular vessel attached to a particular person. The suggestion has been made that if a person derives from 30 per cent to 50 per cent of his annual income from fishing, that would be sufficient to consider him a bona fide fisherman. This is not something that is absolutely new. The Farm Credit Corporation will not lend money to anyone who is not a bona fide farmer. I think something along these lines might be considered. Possibly a waiting list should be established and administered by a board composed of representatives of the fishermen's organizations, the Department of Fisheries, and perhaps some disinterested body such as a university. Certain preference should be given to those families which historically have engaged in the fishing industry in our province.