

Vote No. 15 deals with grants, contributions and subsidies in the amounts and subject to terms specified in sub-vote title listed in the details of Estimates. I am reading from page 152, and I will ask Mr. Lamb whether this particular vote comes under his jurisdiction. On whom shall I call to explain the nature of this vote?

Mr. CHATTERTON: There is only about half an hour left. Should we not go to Item 1 so that the Minister could answer the questions that have been asked? Otherwise, we may be stuck with 15 for the rest of the session.

The CHAIRMAN: Very well. I will then proceed to those who had questions which were previously put and which it was suggested by departmental officials should be directed toward the Minister. Who is proceeding first on this? Was it Mr. Crouse or was it Mr. Carter?

Mr. CROUSE: There was only one question that was deferred, and that was in item 10 on the Newfoundland bait service, which had increased from \$16,000 to \$111,000. The question I raised was with respect to the tremendous change that is taking place in the fishing industry and the fact that, at the present time, many of the Newfoundland firms with which I am acquainted are utilizing this subsidy construction programme to build large deep sea fishing trawlers and scallop draggers and, consequently, the bait service would undoubtedly, within the next five years, diminish rather than expand because neither of these types of draggers constructed requires any bait. My question was, has the Minister and his staff taken this fact into consideration before enlarging on the equipment required to expand the bait service in that province?

Hon. H. J. ROBICHAUD (*Minister of Fisheries*): I believe I can answer this question quite briefly. As the hon. member knows, under the Terms of Union the federal government is responsible for the supply of bait in Newfoundland. We have agreed to carry on with this program, which was already in existence.

It is true that, under the subsidy program, there is a trend in Newfoundland, as there is and has been in other provinces, particularly in Nova Scotia, for the construction of larger trawlers or draggers, which do not require bait. However the situation in Newfoundland is exceptional. We have there actually 21,500 inshore fishermen. So we must admit, at once, that it would be impossible to try to convert the fishing industry in Newfoundland by shifting even a large percentage of it to this type of offshore fishery.

We must admit that we have to maintain substantial inshore fishery in Newfoundland, and it is with this in mind that we are increasing the service in order to provide an adequate supply of bait for those areas, particularly on the Labrador coast, where inshore fishery is of major importance. This is why, last year, we added, I believe, ten additional units and we have made provision for a supply depot on the Labrador coast which will be built this year at a cost of about \$100,000. As I have said, we feel this service is a necessity.

Last Fall I appointed a special commission of inquiry to study the bait situation and the bait problem in Newfoundland. This commission has reported to me about a month and a half ago. We are now studying their recommendations and we feel that some needed changes—I would not say substantial or major ones—or some amendment to the existing bait policy will have to be made in Newfoundland.