

Adjournment Debate

parliamentary secretary since the minister is not here tonight, that he answer the queries of the fishermen—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted to him has expired.

Mr. George Baker (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, the minister finds the hon. member's questions by their nature difficult to understand. The hon. member seems to suggest that he should instruct the corporation on the prices that should be established for fish and that these prices should not necessarily take into account the eventual sale price that may be available in the market place. The minister is sure that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Act did not contemplate that the FFMC should purchase fish at a price unrelated to the eventual price it can obtain in the market. To do as the hon. member proposes would surely be irresponsible management on the part of the corporation, its board of directors, and the advisory committee to that board.

The minister is advised that the FFMC prices are established by management as they relate to the market but are approved initially by the board who have four fishermen

members out of ten, and they consult the advisory committee which has 13 fishermen on their committee out of 15 members. Everything possible is being done to ensure that the maximum return, consistent with the prices that can be obtained in the market place, is provided to fishermen.

I must repeat that these are guaranteed initial prices to fishermen before they commence fishing, unlike the system prior to the corporation when fishermen did not have any idea of the price they could expect for their fish. I might add that if returns are obtained in the market place higher than those originally set, the fisherman is also a direct beneficiary when final payments are made.

The minister has not consulted with the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) but he has consulted the legal advisers of the Fisheries and Marine Service and is convinced after reviewing this matter that the corporation is indeed operating within the spirit and conditions of the act.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.27 p.m.