

I started out with the intention of moving an amendment to the motion to go into supply. I am not going to move the amendment, but I should like to read it:

That all the words after the word "that" be struck out and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

This house recommends that the subject matter contained in order in council No. 206, be referred to the select standing committee on marine and fisheries for discussion and report.

My excuse for moving this amendment would have been that it was the only way I could bring this matter to a vote. I cannot bring this question before the house by means of a resolution because, as we all know, private members' days soon will be taken away from us, and it would be impossible to reach that resolution. I think the urgency of the matter would justify my moving such an amendment, but I am not going to do so because that would mean a vote of want of confidence in the government, and of course that would be used against me; hon. gentlemen opposite would say I was playing politics. I would rather leave the matter to the goodwill and judgment of the government, and I ask them if they will not refer this matter to the committee on marine and fisheries. Surely that is not a drastic step to take. I am only asking that the matter be investigated. The government will have a majority on the committee, and they need not fear any ill considered action being taken. I am not afraid to leave the matter to the committee, because all I want is an investigation and to have some publicity thrown on the matter with all the facts brought to light. I will be satisfied with the judgment of the committee. I feel sure that if the government would take this step this legislation, which came in through the back door by means of an order in council, would be thrown out the front door in the interests of fairness, equality and justice and to the ultimate benefit of everyone concerned in the fishing industry.

Now it is very much up to the government. What are they going to do? There are thousands of fishermen in British Columbia whose livelihood will be seriously imperilled if conditions remain as they are. These fishermen will be waiting for the decision of the government with anxious hearts, and I hope and trust that the government will see their way clear to allow this matter to go to the select standing committee on Marine and fisheries.

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, for over an hour and a half the hon. gentleman has

regaled the house with a dissertation on fishery affairs on the Pacific coast. I shall not attempt to follow him, either in the extreme language he has used in describing matters which are capable of being discussed in the most ordinary way, or in the extravagant manner in which he has referred to this matter.

These regulations arose out of certain matters which were brought to my attention as Minister of Trade and Commerce, and I wish to take a measure of responsibility for the order in council to which reference has been made. Canada has a very valuable canned salmon business, which is largely limited to the Pacific coast. Our exports of that class of goods amount to from \$6,000,000 to \$9,000,000 a year. I think for the past two years they have amounted to something over \$6,000,000 yearly, so it will be seen that this business is very important. About half these exports, roughly speaking, go to the United Kingdom, while our exports to Australia total over a million dollars, and in addition very considerable quantities go to other countries scattered throughout the world. It is highly essential that, so far as possible, we should maintain the quality of this product. Canada has achieved a very good name for its canned salmon in all the markets of the world. During the last ten years, in fact for a good many years, we have been faced with keen competition from the United States in fish packed in Alaskan waters and in adjacent American waters, but in more recent years Japanese salmon caught off the Siberian coast and the northern coast of that country has been a very serious competitor with our product in the world market; and during the past three years or so Russia also has come on the market with an excellent product in the form of canned salmon, making the competition against the Canadian product more and more keen.

We have been rather jealous of our pack. Efforts have been made for years to ensure that it should be uniform and of high quality. It is quite true that salmon of the same variety caught in different sections will frequently be somewhat different in colour and in the quality of the product, but efforts have been made for many years to maintain at least some standard of excellence in our product. During the past year, through information obtained from the commercial intelligence branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce, we learned that the Canadian pack was deteriorating in some respects. Some portions of the pack had been called in question by importers, and indeed very serious loss to our business was