

Supply—Fisheries and Forestry

of October. I am saying that we are trying to find an alternative which will achieve the desired result and which will not in effect result in some sort of policy or control that would eliminate the benefits of it. I suggest that this is the quandary in which we find ourselves at the present time. I do not mean that it is a quandary only so far as the government or those who have a direct interest in it are concerned; I say it is also a quandary to those involved in the trade. It is a general and serious problem and I hope a solution to it can be found rapidly.

Mr. Carter: May I ask another question?

Mr. Jamieson: I will accept another one, but I hope the time is being taken into account and will be allowed for.

Mr. Carter: I should like to return to my original question. Does the minister think it is sensible for the government to discontinue the deficiency payment until it has found the solution he is now suggesting?

Mr. Jamieson: I am afraid I will have to revert to what I said a moment ago. Of course it is not sensible at all in terms of purely internal Canadian national problems. It is probably the simplest way in which to continue this kind of aid. However if my hon. friend would consult with some of his colleagues I believe they would tell him why we could not continue the program. It was a question of this type of aid having to be of an interim and short term nature. October is the very latest it could have been kept on. If my hon. friend would like to discuss this with me later, I shall be glad to go into it in detail.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the minister would allow me to ask a question. I am sure the committee will make allowances for the time involved. What is the difference in the United States imposing a tariff which is closing down that market, and causing our whole groundfish industry to collapse?

Mr. Jamieson: I think that is a question which should more properly be directed, for example, to the fishing interests in the Atlantic provinces who themselves, with varying degrees of fear, have expressed this on many many occasions. I believe this was contained in a report that was submitted on November 13. I am quite sure this is the general reaction of the trade itself. I repeat that this is a situation in respect of which, in my estimation at least, the fishing industry has said

[Mr. Jamieson.]

they want another formula. There are hazards in the particular plan and they are worried about it. I say to my friends opposite, forgive me if I have not spelled this out as clearly as they wish, but I hope they have the message.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Chairman, I apologize to the minister for asking him a question in the middle of his remarks. I do not like to do so. Several weeks ago in a community in Newfoundland the minister mentioned that the Liberals had superior intellectual ability and that the Conservatives were intellectually bankrupt. Would the minister say whether he offered any solutions to the trade. He mentioned for example that the trade made these recommendations that they could not be accepted, and so on. Only a few days ago the Prime Minister unilaterally made a decision and a statement in respect of offshore mineral rights.

Mr. Jamieson: Don't make your speech now.

Mr. Lundrigan: I won't. With a government that has this kind of intellectual ability I am sure there must have been suggestions made to the trade by the minister in respect of a solution to these problems. I am sure, in his remaining remarks, the minister would like to indicate what alternative plans were suggested to the trade.

Mr. Jamieson: I presume you are talking about what alternative plan I suggested to the trade.

Mr. Lundrigan: The minister mentioned the suggestions of the trade and indicated that he asked the trade to make recommendations to the government. I wonder what recommendations were made by the government to the trade concerning the solution the government posed for the remedy of the problem.

Mr. Jamieson: I do not believe they were cut and dried suggestions or solutions. We batted around a good many things, as some hon. members who were present know. The first was to ascertain how to support the income of inshore fishermen by providing direct infusion to the fisheries operation. I think there should be a formula for getting additional funds into the hands of the fishermen who are fishing for the plants.

At the present time, except for a small portion of the southwest corner of Burin-Burgeo there is not much inshore fishing going on. There could be, for example, the trawler plan, the plant worker plan or some