

form of government and the difference between liberalism and communism.

**Mr. Chénier:** Apologize.

**Mr. Siddon:** Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I should warn the hon. member that it is quite obvious that that was not a point of order. It was debate. However, I will recognize the hon. member for Richmond-South Delta.

**Mr. Siddon:** Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that as much as the hon. member opposite, I have visited many communist countries, and what I have seen and pinpointed here is the first signs of what would lead to that type of government being established in this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Fleming:** Unadulterated nonsense.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** The Chair is obliged to recognize a member who seeks the floor on a point of order. I have no choice but to recognize the hon. member for Parkdale-High Park (Mr. Flis) if he seeks the floor again on a point of order. However, I have to point out and underline the fact that the hon. member has had an opportunity, under the guise of a point of order, to enter into debate, and it is the responsibility of the Chair not to permit that. I have no choice but to recognize the hon. member, but it should be on that which is a point of order.

**Mr. Flis:** Mr. Speaker, this is exactly a point of order. My point of order is that the hon. member should withdraw the statement he just made. He just reconfirmed that he is labelling this government what it is not, and I ask, on a point of order, that he withdraw those comments.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I do not necessarily appreciate the degree of concern the hon. member has with respect to the government's being referred to as communist. The government can be referred to as communist or as the mafia or anything else, but it is a matter of debate, not a point of order.

**Mr. George Henderson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take part in the debate this afternoon about the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, a Crown venture which has performed, in my opinion, very well and because of its success has been the subject of some discussion.

**Mr. McDermid:** It will come back to haunt you.

**Mr. Henderson:** The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. LeBlanc) has already expressed, in the clearest terms, his reasons for asking the hon. member for Richmond-South Delta (Mr. Siddon) to withdraw his request that copies be tabled of all documents exchanged between the government and the governments of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta

### *Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation*

and the territorial council of the Northwest Territories since January 1, 1978, relating to the review and restructuring of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. The minister has requested this withdrawal because a comprehensive review of the corporation is presently under way, and the presentation of the documents presented would not serve a constructive purpose and would be premature.

Furthermore, with all due respect to the hon. member, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has stated that he would be very pleased to table the report on the corporation when it has been completed subject, of course, to the consent of the participating provinces and territories.

It seems to me that this discussion of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, to which I humbly add a few words, is useful and opportune. I say it is useful and opportune because of concern that the corporation has not blown its own horn and has allowed its own record to stand as its voice. The record is good, the voice is strong, but it has obviously fallen on some deaf ears. I have looked at the record and I can say that I am impressed. But before I pursue the exposition of the corporation's record, I feel it important to preface this with an overview of why the corporation was formed in the first place and what it was given as its objectives so that the record can be viewed in this light.

The establishment of the corporation, provided for by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Act passed in the 1968-69 session of Parliament, ushered in a new era in the freshwater fish industry. Prior to the control of the freshwater fisheries in western Canada being centralized through the corporation, there were many problems facing this industry. These problems were perceived by the governments of the prairie provinces as stemming from the extreme fragmentation of all sectors of the industry. The prairie provinces were concerned about the recurring weakness of prices for freshwater fish, particularly in the export market, and the well-being of the primary producers who ultimately bore the brunt of weak prices—the fishermen themselves.

The province of Manitoba originally stated its position in a brief to the National Fisheries Conference in January, 1964. Problems of disorderly marketing, too many exporters, poor processing equipment, low quality control facilities and fishermen receiving too low a share of prices, which were constantly fluctuating, led the province of Manitoba to recommend the establishment of a regional marketing board to meet the marketing problems of the industry.

As a result of the concerns expressed by the prairie provinces and because the freshwater fish industry operated inter-provincially and internationally, the federal government, the assistance of which was requested, appointed by order in council a commission of inquiry in 1965 to inquire into and report upon the marketing problems of the freshwater fish industry in the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. George H. McIvor, the commissioner, concluded at that time that the export market was weak because there were too many exporters in Canada to counter the control exercised by