

### *Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation*

The purpose of this bill, therefore, is to repeal the original act of incorporation and replace it with a more modern, up-to-date charter. The bill contains a provision stating that, for all purposes, the new corporation, created by this bill, is deemed to be a continuation of the corporation created by Parliament in 1927.

Since this is a private bill it will be necessary for a committee to examine the allegations of facts set out in the preamble. I would propose, therefore, if second reading is granted, to ask that the bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders, which is the committee of the House which normally examines private bills.

**Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, as is normally the custom, we are pleased to see this bill go to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

### [English]

Motions nos. 1, 4, 5, 22 and 28 allowed to stand by unanimous consent.

### [Translation]

#### FRESHWATER FISH MARKETING CORPORATION

The House resumed from Thursday, December 18, 1980, consideration of the motion of Mr. Siddon:

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House copies of all correspondence, telegrams or other documents exchanged between the government, its departments and agencies and the governments of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Territorial Council of the Northwest Territories, since January 1, 1978, relating to the review and restructuring of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

**Mr. Michel Veillette (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to proceed with the statement I was making before Christmas, when I was interrupted by the clock. I was quoting among other things part of a working paper tabled at the First Ministers' Conference on the Economy held from the 27th to the 29th of November in Halifax and I was quoting the following statistics on fisheries:

The main species taken throughout the country are: whitefish (6,803.8 metric tons), pickerel (3,855.6 metric tons), great northern pike (2,721.7 metric tons), cisco (1,769 metric tons) . . . Locally, some species such as carp (Saskatchewan and Ontario), arctic char (Northwest Territories), sunfish, smelt, pike, lake perch and eel (Ontario) make up a substantial part of the catches.

The author of the paper then deals with the fishing gear, the accessibility of some lakes, transportation problems, parasites peculiar to some species and the impact of some contaminants, such as mercury, which have led to highly controversial restrictions and have resulted in lower catches of some species.

In addition to stock management, all matters dealing with the protection of the habitat, with processing, transportation and preservation, on which the quality of the product depends, and all marketing related activities have a direct influence on the income and standard of living of freshwater commercial fishermen. Incidentally, at this point I want to mention that according to the 1978 report, in 1972 most freshwater fishermen earned \$3,700 and the average annual income was \$5,900 whereas the national average in the fishing industry was \$6,900 annually. The fact was stressed that, in central Canada, fishing was mainly a part time occupation and in the higher income brackets, only half was derived from fishing.

● (1710)

For all those reasons, in 1965 the federal government asked Mr. George McIvor by order in council to look into the matter and report on the situation of freshwater fishermen in the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, as well as in the Northwest Territories, with special emphasis on product marketing. The resulting report, the McIvor commission report, led to the setting up, on February 27, 1969, of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

The corporation, created by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Act of 1969, was established for the purpose of marketing and trading fish, fish products and fish byproducts in and out of Canada, to ensure the most rational marketing at every level of the industry, and the best and most stable prices possible for the fishermen's catches.

Initial costs in setting up the corporation were subsidized, but it is now financially self-sufficient and does not receive any financial assistance from Parliament. The corporation is financed through bank loans guaranteed by the Minister of Finance or even direct loans. It consists of a board of directors composed of a chairman, a president, one director for each of the participating provinces and four other directors each of whom is to be appointed by the governor in council for a term not exceeding five years. The corporation is accountable to Parliament through the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. By its very nature and because of its terms of reference the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is an easy target for complaints.

Let us be fair. The corporation does not have but one customer, it has 3,500 of them in the sense that, in a position of monopoly, it serves some 3,500 fishermen spread out over a vast area consisting of four provinces and the Northwest Territories and which are as many partners whose interests are quite strongly differentiated. The corporation must buy all fish caught in fresh water by commercial fishermen, a task