

Mr. NEILL: I would like to ask the question whether it is necessary for Mr. Found to present these views. He is talking as an official of the fisheries department, and what the views of these people at Sooke are should be presented by themselves. I do not think Mr. Found need take up his time giving individual views; he is giving views here as the Deputy Minister of the Department of Fisheries. The Sooke man should speak for himself by way of petition so that we can have the petition before us.

The WITNESS: I can place this petition before you.

Hon. Mr. MICHAUD: These are the facts contained in a petition that was addressed to us by the Sooke people.

Mr. NEILL: Let us have it then.

Hon. Mr. MICHAUD: It is filed here.

Mr. RYAN: Why not make it a part of the record?

Mr. NEILL: May I have a copy?

The WITNESS: It is contained in a return.

Mr. NEILL: I have not seen it.

The WITNESS: It has just been completed.

Mr. RYAN: If it is part of the record, some of us would like to have a little bit more information.

Hon. Mr. MICHAUD: Certainly. It will not hurt.

The WITNESS: I was seeking to give the committee a little information so that it might be considered for what it was worth. I am not seeking to do more than make that statement.

Hon. MEMBERS: Go ahead.

Mr. NEILL: It is all right if Mr. Found presents this statement and says, "I have a letter or petition which I am going to read"; but when he states it as Deputy Minister of Fisheries that is different. He is not entitled to tell us that these things are facts. If he presents a petition, as any of us might, we will be able to consider it and to know where it comes from, but he should not be saying that these things are such and so on his own authority. If he is going to read a petition or a letter, let us know what it is.

Hon. Mr. MICHAUD: Even if the facts which the Deputy Minister lays before the committee are disputed by any member of the committee, he is at liberty to correct them.

Mr. NEILL: He is not in a position to state that he knows those things; he is only quoting from what somebody else told him. If he gives us the authority it is all right.

Hon. Mr. MICHAUD: Even if it is evidence that can be disputed, it can be verified; it can be shown by other witnesses.

Mr. TAYLOR: It is very essential that we should get the information.

The CHAIRMAN: My ruling in this case would be that if this is a petition sent in by individual members of that district it should become part of the record.

Mr. NEILL: And the witness should tell us so.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. NEILL: Read it out.

The WITNESS: I was reading the statement.

Mr. RYAN: Is it signed by many people?

The WITNESS: It is signed. I think forty-one is right. They all signed giving their ages and the number of years they had been employed, the number of dependents, and whether they are home owners or not. I will read it:—