

lower the price. There is no difference in the shipment when you compare the first 50 thousand pounds.

You may say, well it is not much of a variance; but I submit that if we had had 150 thousand pounds of haddock we would have received 5 cents for the first 50 thousand pounds and 4 cents for the balance of 100 thousand pounds.

Then we come to the difference between the price paid in Nova Scotia and the price paid in Newfoundland. On May 26, 1958, my own dragger laid down a trip of fish at Job Brothers in St. John's, Newfoundland. They had to go in there in distress because of high winds. They received for their codfish  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound in Newfoundland. The haddock were apparently all scrod grade, although my captain informs me otherwise, and we received  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents a pound and under. That is a method they use to secure fish at the lower price. They paid  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents a pound for haddock, 3 cents a pound for flounder and hake at \$8 a ton. That was on the 26th. On the 17th they landed at Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, and received  $3\frac{3}{4}$  cents for cod fish which is an increase of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents within a period of 15 days. I give you these figures to show the wide variance between prices paid in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

Actually, the Newfoundland dealers could pay more for the fish because they are blessed with water freight between Newfoundland and Boston and New York where they are selling their product. All of us know that water freight is the lowest cost freight. Therefore, these prices in Newfoundland should be revised, because in Newfoundland fish dealers can land their product in Boston cheaper than can the dealers at Lunenburg or Halifax.

The dealers at Lunenburg and Halifax must pay the refrigeration service costs to Bar Harbour and down into Boston. Just how any government will cope with this great variation in prices and get the benefits back to the fishermen will be an interesting thing to me as one who has a large interest in the basic production of fish.

Mr. MACLEAN (*Queens*): This whole question is a very interesting and complex one, and one that has bedevilled governments and business for many years. Frankly, I do not know what the answer is, but on the face of it, it does not seem reasonable that when a consumer buys a meal, say in a restaurant, that the waitress that puts it on the table gets more as a tip than the primary producer who produces the food in the first place. That is often the case, but not always.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: It depends a bit on the customer.

Mr. MACLEAN (*Queens*): That is true. It may depend on the waitress to some extent as well. But this whole question comes within the purview of the investigation that is now being done by the royal commission on price spreads in food products, which includes fish. We are hopeful that they may come up with some recommendations that may be helpful, as far as guidance to the government is concerned, in any feasible action which might be taken.

Mr. CROUSE: In commenting, Mr. Chairman, on the American assistance, which will be of benefit no doubt to the American fishermen, I would like to give you a comparison. I gave you the 1957 price. At the time we were receiving three-and-a-quarter cents for codfish, the Americans on the same day were receiving for their codfish  $12\frac{1}{4}$  cents a pound. While we were getting four-and-a-half cents to five cents, top price, for our haddock, the Americans according to this statement, dated November 9, 1957, which is comparative to the figures I quoted from the Canadian trip sheets, were receiving from haddock  $12\frac{1}{4}$  cents a pound. The biggest difference seems to be on a fish called—well, in the United States they call it lemon sole. We, in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland apparently cannot get a lemon sole. We can catch flounder which is yellow-tail or plaice, which are all members of the flounder family, and we receive three to three-and-a-quarter cents a pound.