

government policy which will be of maximum benefit to Newfoundland, to the fishermen primarily, and the merchants secondarily. I think this amendment does give much more strength to the Canadian position by us being able to say, this is a very valuable privilege we are giving you—what are you doing about the purchase of salt cod from us? I think that is the position we will take, but as the Deputy Minister has said, there is going to be no abrupt change in policy; but in this we have another weapon that strengthens our—

Mr. STICK: Bargaining power.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: —yes, bargaining power.

Mr. STICK: That point is more or less cleared up and I am very glad to have that statement on the record from the Minister, because I think that statement being on the record here regarding this question is a good thing. I think it will satisfy most people in Newfoundland that it gives us better bargaining power. I have no doubt that the Portugese and other people who come there can be prevailed upon to make an arrangement that will benefit us.

Mr. STUART: If these regulations were made, would it not be for our own protection? There might be undesirables you would not want in your fishing ports, and I was wondering if that is not one reason why that provision is there.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: It is not a matter of using it as an intimidation to upset, for example, the very happy relationship that exists between the Portugese and the Newfoundland people, and which has existed over the centuries, but certainly it is improving our position and anything which would improve our position in trading with European countries should be used.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Chairman, can I ask another question in connection with clause 3 of the Bill? As I understand it, the Canadian fishing vessel is prevented from bringing in fish from a foreign vessel. It has been suggested that bait is fish. Hence he could bring bait from a port to a vessel outside territorial waters without falling within the ambit of clause 3. He is prevented from bringing in fish received from outside Canadian territorial waters. What about bringing bait to that ship outside territorial waters? Do I make myself clear?

The CHAIRMAN: Do you mean by that, Mr. Robichaud, that the fishermen might be required to go to the customs and make an export entry for the bait that he is selling to these foreign trawlers?

Mr. ROBICHAUD: That is the point I want clarified. It may happen in my county.

Mr. STICK: That is not the only place it happens.

Mr. OZERE: I think that while it is true that the situation is not covered here, it never was covered by the former Act either. It is a matter that relates to export or import regulations, something that is not regulated under this Act. If we wished to prohibit the export of bait from Canada, we would have to do it under the authority of the proper Act that regulates export and import, the Export and Import Permits Act. We would not be able to regulate it under this one.

Mr. STICK: What would be the position, for instance, in this case, if the Portugese vessel comes within five or six miles of our coast and Canadian fishermen bring supplies out to them? You have a similar position there, have you not?

Mr. ROBICHAUD: That is why I raised the point.

Mr. OZERE: It is a matter for our import and export regulations; it is not a matter of regulating the fishing vessels in our territorial waters.

Mr. STICK: It is not covered in this Act?

Mr. OZERE: No.