

Freshwater Fish Marketing Report

Therefore it is not because of any opposition to the general spirit of the remarks of the mover but because of the desirability of flexibility that I am opposed to the amendment.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words on this amendment. I support in principle what the hon. member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse) is seeking, namely, that the auditing of the accounts and transactions of this board should be carried out by the Auditor General. I hope that the word that has now come from the minister will result in that choice being made.

If the government is opposed to the amendment there is not much chance of its being carried this afternoon, so I shall have to content myself with making the plea that the choice of the government for this particular job should be the Auditor General. I recognize that auditors are auditors, that they all do a good job. But I also know that there is a difference in the kind of report that we get from the Auditor General of Canada when he does an audit compared with the kind of report that we get from private auditing firms for some of the Crown corporations or bodies that are associated with government operations.

For example, when we get a report from one of these auditing firms, what does it say? I do not have one in front of me, but I can tell hon. members fairly accurately what it says: "We have audited the accounts and we have checked all the records and are satisfied that everything is in order, sincerely yours", and then appears the name of the company. I cannot recall any report from a private firm of auditors going into the kind of detail into which the Auditor General enters when he does an audit. That is the reason I think it is better that any concern which is making use of public money in any way, even by way of a loan or on the basis of a government guarantee, should be subjected to that kind of audit.

I accept the minister's statement that he is not going to support this amendment, and therefore it is not going to carry. But I hope that when the time comes for the Governor in Council or the Treasury Board to make a decision as to who will be the auditor, the choice will be the Auditor General of Canada.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those in favour of the proposed amendment please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those opposed to the amendment please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): In my opinion the nays have it.

Mr. Crouse: On division.

Amendment (Mr. Crouse) negatived.

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore) moved:

That clause 18 (1) be amended by striking out the word "may" in the first line thereof and substituting therefor the word "shall" and by adding after the word "Committee" in the last line thereof the following:

"and at least one-third of whom shall be actively engaged in the freshwater fishing industry as fishermen."

He said: Mr. Speaker, in moving this amendment my simple purpose is to ensure that the Governor in Council will appoint an advisory committee to assist the president and directors in their deliberations and advise on policy. As I stated previously, I believe that the advisory board is not going to function in a satisfactory manner unless there is representation on the board from the primary producers. There is nothing in the bill to guarantee that fishermen will be represented on this board.

In our opinion this marketing board has been proposed at the provincial and federal government levels. To date there is very little evidence to indicate the attitude of the primary producers toward this proposal. However, in order to be effective I believe that the board must have the unqualified support of all the fishermen in the vast area that is covered by this program. And it is a vast area, encompassing northern Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

In my view there is no better way to encourage the fishermen to get behind the board than by guaranteeing them representation on the advisory committee. By moving to amend the advisory committee clause of the bill, which calls for not more than 15 members, we are stating our belief that at least one-third of the members of the advisory board should be fishermen. I hope that the government will give favourable consideration to this amendment.

We have heard it said that it may not be possible to secure qualified fishermen to serve in this capacity. This type of argument is