

we would very likely be in a better competitive retail selling position. We have queried many of our retail store outlets on this question and they did mention that initially, when pork came on the market at a cheaper price, there was a noticeable effect on canned fish sales. We are all hopeful that this year's business will demonstrate that we will maintain or even slightly increase our canned salmon sales in Canada. It is an academic question to ask us what the situation will be—maybe our sales would be much greater if it were not for the competition from canned pork.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. WELCH: I should like to say a few words on that subject. It is not my desire that I should discuss the canned sardine question. It was left out of the brief because Senator McLean knows more about canned sardines than anybody here. But we in that business feel that subsidized canned pork has had a definite effect upon our sale of canned sardines. Canned sardines is in the lower price class, and canned pork does have a retarding effect on our sales.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: May I ask whether the witness would suggest, as a solution for the problem, that the government should get out of the canned pork business or get into the fish canning business?

Mr. WELCH: I would suggest that they get out of the canned pork business.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no question about it but that fish and pork come into competition at a certain price level. Here you have one food industry paying its tax, and paying an additional tax to subsidize another industry that is selling in competition with it.

If there are no further questions, I am sure I speak for every member of the committee when I express our appreciation for the very fine brief presented by our witnesses today.

Whereupon the committee adjourned.