

*Canadian Salfish Corporation*

Hon. members will have to reserve their comments for the discussion of the Department's estimates or for other occasions such as committee sittings.

Mr. Speaker, as the Corporation must correct a situation which has lasted for more than a century we cannot expect substantial results before two or three years.

I wish the Canadian Salfish Corporation a long life and congratulate the minister for having given consideration to the problems of the Atlantic fishermen. It is a great stride on the road to a just society.

[*English*]

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to have 15 or 20 minutes in which to review some of the points we made in the committee and some of the successes we have had. I will take just a few moments to first congratulate the minister for taking the advice of members from Newfoundland who over the past two years have been working very hard to bring about this corporation. I think the minister is now realizing the importance of some of the representations we are making in the House of Commons and is taking our advice. If he keeps this up, it will certainly make a contribution to the fisheries of Atlantic Canada.

The establishment of a Crown corporation is not going to necessarily solve the problems of the salt fishery in Newfoundland. I say that because there is a great tendency, when a move is made to establish a corporation or any such body, for the government to back off altogether and leave it up to the corporation. I can see that the minister will have to work hard, as well as hon. members and members of the corporation, to get this program off the ground as quickly as possible.

We must employ top-notch men. There are all kinds of rumours about the person who will be in charge of the corporation. I think we in the Committee made sufficient representations to the minister to at least assure him that we will not be happy with appointments to the corporation other than on the basis of ability. We will require people who are willing to work really hard, in order for the corporation to succeed and to achieve its major aim, that is, to ensure that fishermen will get more money for their work and their produce. We must have a consistent hard-working effort by the men who occupy key positions in the corporation.

Apart from making that point I want to make just one other observation. We have in

[Mr. Cyr.]

Atlantic Canada tens of thousands of salt cod fishermen and people who are directly or indirectly involved in the industry. I am as sure as I am standing here that most of these fishermen are not aware of the features of the marketing corporation, how they will be related to it or what they have to do in terms of quality of produce, which is to be one of the major objectives.

They must know what they have to do. As the minister said to me in conversation one day, "It will be their business, and by and large they will have much of the responsibility of ensuring that the corporation works, by producing good quality fish." If we do not produce good quality fish, we might just as well forget about the corporation and the industry. The fishermen must know what their role is in the corporation, and what the corporation can do for them.

What are some of the major objectives? I am making this point to impress upon the minister and the Department of Fisheries the need for informing the fishermen about the objectives of the corporation. Personally—and I am sure I speak for all members—I am always sending out information concerning statements made in the House by the minister and other members in clarification of objectives such as are encompassed in this corporation. But I think if a formal mailing-piece, even if something similar to what was presented in the committee, were prepared in the form of a pamphlet and sent out to all fishermen, it would go a long way toward keeping them informed and establishing for them some guidelines in respect of the quality of their fish produce.

● (5.50 p.m.)

I should like to draw the minister's attention to an almost unique situation in Newfoundland. I represent Fogo Island. This island has on it 600 or 700 salt cod fishermen. The community comprises about 5,000 people. On that island there is what is almost equivalent to a marketing board—a co-operative. I am not sure whether it is the only co-operative in Newfoundland, but it is the only one of which I am aware. It is very successful. It has the support of the people on the island and as a result of the co-operative the fishermen receive anywhere from a 10 per cent to a 20 per cent higher return for their fish.

This co-operative already has a substantial investment in the industry. It has a great many facilities. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I