

*Fisheries*

into effect, if indeed it is. I should also like to point out a few places where the bill seems to be obscure and should be clarified before final passage.

In my riding there are a few hundred licence-holders in the fishing industry who will be affected by the legislation. They have been asking questions about it and making comments, and I do not think these are altogether clarified by the provisions of the bill. One of their main points is in connection with the duties of the corporation and the extent to which it will take over the buying, processing and marketing of fish. It does not appear quite clear whether fish can be sold to the trade within the province in which they are caught without passing through the hands of the corporation.

● (4:10 p.m.)

For instance, it is not clear whether licensed fishermen will have the opportunity of selling to neighbours, local restaurants and so on, bearing in mind, of course, that they are bound by the requirements of our food laws and so forth. It is not clear from the terms of the bill whether or not this type of enterprise is going to be prohibited or allowed. Indeed, there does not seem to be anything in the bill that will prevent a fish producer from marketing fish in any form within the province in which the fish are caught. This may be an indication that the purpose of the bill is to allow some private competition or private trade in fish, or that there may be a low level of competition in fish products in the province in which the fish are caught. The legislation does not spell out whether the corporation can or will allow private enterprise to engage in fish marketing or, particularly, in the manufacture of fish into fish by-products. In my area, for instance, there is at this time considerable interest in the manufacture of coarse fish into pet food. I believe that this point ought to be clarified since clarification would remove the considerable uncertainty of the processors of fish. They are not sure whether there will be any need for private initiative in the actual marketing and manufacturing of fish products.

Another area where the legislation does not seem to be quite clear is in the definition of a fisherman. This has been a bone of contention in my province. Our fishermen argue about the definition of a fisherman. Although all commercial fishermen must procure a licence to fish, all too often this has been a mere formality. There has been criticism of some

fishermen who make their livelihood from fishing. There has been considerable discussion among fishermen themselves as to the designation of a fisherman. Some hope to make a livelihood from the fishing industry most of the time while others are part time fishermen who fish on a part time basis to supplement their incomes or who go fishing when fishing is good and proceed to another occupation when fishing is not so good. I believe the licensing of fishermen will have to be considered, as will the definition of a fisherman. If the corporation is to handle all or almost all fish on the market it may eventually have to be the body which will make this decision.

There is a further clause in the bill dealing with the granting of licences for the carrying on of interprovincial trade and the export of fish. It is not clear whether the present system of export licences will be continued, with the province having the power to grant an export licence to anyone it sees fit, or whether the corporation will grant such licences. In the past many people involved in the marketing of fish products have been worried about this situation. They have felt that to a large extent the existing conditions did much to bring about the McIvor report. Indeed, they feel that too many export licences are being given to people without adequate trading or marketing facilities. It is felt that such individuals or companies dealing in fish have tended to drive down the price, with the result that the market was depressed. It would seem that this activity would also have to be carried out by the corporation if any kind of rationalization at the interprovincial or international level is to be achieved.

There is another point of general concern in my riding. Will the board buy all species of fish that are procured by fishermen or will it set some sort of quotas? Some fishermen in some areas catch mostly coarse fish and very few good fish that can be sold, while others in other areas catch good, saleable fish most of the time. If the board is to acquire control over the marketing of fish and fish products, surely it will be required to take all saleable fish caught by fishermen subject, of course, to the quotas which must be imposed on the yields from lakes in order to make for good fish husbandry. Unless it is made clear that the board is required to buy all fish offered to it, it does not seem likely that the corporation could carry on a meaningful rationalization of the industry.