

*Fisheries*

fishing areas. It will be absolutely necessary to conduct a study as to how to ensure a steady flow of fish products to the markets.

In the future we will have to find steady markets and ways to reduce the spread between the cost to the consumer and the sale price to the producer. We must at the same time maintain fish products of high quality, both in respect of production and type. The solution to these problems will require the attention of those people who are best equipped in this field. These questions will task the ingenuity of the minister and his officials.

Those hon. members who represent saltwater fishing areas will probably be able to advise members of this committee. However, I hope they will not demand an expansion of the crown corporation at this time but will co-operate in seeing that it becomes a success. It is my belief that if we can succeed in the limited and controlled markets that we have in Chicago, Toronto and the hinterland of the North American continent we will also be able to apply the same type of marketing legislation to much broader areas.

● (8:10 p.m.)

I therefore hope the minister has in mind some very good people for the operation and development of this board. I congratulate the minister for the attention he has paid to the report of the McIvor commission which made the recommendations that in the main appear to form the basis of the legislation and the powers of the board.

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, having had the opportunity to study this bill, a couple of questions come to mind in connection with it. Bill C-148 will, of course, result in the setting up of a corporation for the marketing of freshwater fish. I am in favour of the general principle of the bill. I am very much in favour of the ideals which are set out in the bill, but there are some questions I would like to raise in connection with it and two or three observations I would like to make with regard to this subject.

First of all, as my friend and colleague, the hon. member from the province of Prince Edward Island said this afternoon, if a marketing board can achieve the ideals set out in this bill we will certainly not be reluctant to give praise where praise is due. The aims of the proposed legislation should result in a very much better situation in respect of the marketing of fish and should work to the

[Mr. Peters.]

benefit of the fishermen in various parts of Canada.

However, there are some observations I would like to make in connection with the proposed legislation having in mind the fishermen who will be affected by the provisions of the bill. First, Mr. Speaker, I wonder why the legislation was not drafted in a much broader way. I am required, of course, to speak only to the terms of the bill. There are other aspects of the Canadian fisheries which should perhaps be considered, but I will confine my remarks to bill C-148. There is in the bill one phrase that has stuck in my mind. It is one that has been in my mind since I entered this house last September. Since that time I have listened to several ministers talking about our fisheries, specifically the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis), of course, and his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin). I have always been fascinated by one concept which seems to be popular in Canada. I refer to the statement made on page 7 of Bill C-148, in Clause 15 (1), as follows:

The corporation shall conduct its operations on a self-sustaining financial basis without appropriations therefor by parliament.

This phrase has received a great deal of attention from the ministers I have mentioned. Not too long ago our Minister of Fisheries while in Boston observed that the Canadian fishing industry must pay its way. This remark gave to the American people the impression that the fishermen of Canada are the recipients of a great deal of welfare and have to depend upon government hand-outs in order to survive. I do not feel comfortable about this statement because I am one who has a great deal of respect for our fishermen. I think this remark has painted the fisherman of Canada as being a person receiving from the government half of the money he needs in order to live. I am sure the minister did not intend to convey that impression, but it was the impression we received after reading what he said.

Several weeks ago the Minister of Fisheries admitted to the committee that a guarantee had been given to the government of the United States that certain assistance which was being rendered to the Canadian fishing industry would not continue. An agreement was made between the Canadian government and the United States government that the government of Canada would not continue to assist the fisheries in certain ways because it might appear to the United States government that the Canadian fishing industry was being