

*Saltfish Act*

Canada should have the sort of strength in the world market for fish that comes from its advantages so far as resources are concerned.

The hon. member seemed to indicate that the \$30 million in this bill is intended for construction and other purposes. The fact is that it is a credit increase. Although the corporation does help some of its agents with loans better to equip the facilities or to improve them, in fact it advances money to fishermen against the sale of their product or to the agents who act on behalf of the fishermen under contract with the corporation. The corporation is not very heavily involved in the provision and management of facilities, except in very isolated communities. In fact, it has provided salt and equipment and it has helped fishermen become organized in the sharing of machinery, etc. In that sense it has played an activist role, but usually only in response to a group of fishermen getting together and wanting the corporation to help them become organized. I have always encouraged the corporation to pay a great deal of attention to the isolated communities and to individuals who, with their families, often create a small but good little economic unit by salting very good quality fish as a cottage industry, including the use of their own wash line on which to stretch the fish, using their own back yards. Historically, this has been a successful venture. I see no reason why the cottage industry should not be encouraged.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Chairman, I have no more questions to ask of the minister but I listened attentively to see if the minister would deal with the question raised by the NDP critic with respect to the role of processors in handling saltfish through the corporation. I do not think the minister dealt with the issue. I should like to bring the minister up to date on the recommendations of the MacKenzie report, which was a working group that was formed to look into the operations of the corporation. MacKenzie recommended in his report that—

—a way must be found to foster innovative action by private traders under the aegis of the corporation . . . the initiative and energy of firms in the private trade must be enlisted for the renewal of the saltfish trade.

He was basing this recommendation on the resurgence of 2J+3KL or northern cod stock. I wonder if a way has been found to accommodate private traders.

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Mr. Chairman, to my knowledge a way has not been found, although there has been increased co-operation in some cases where commercial enterprises had operations in isolated communities and where salting fish was a good way of utilizing the product. I might say that my memory is a little vague with regard to consultation. I remember the MacKenzie report very well. At the time we were trying to see if we could in fact strengthen the corporation in terms of large fish which many of the private industry processors received from their fishermen. Some of the large fish could be segregated out and used for salting. One of the breakdowns which

occurred is that the industry did indicate it would not feel compelled to buy all the fish which a fisherman would bring in. This created a situation where a company which was involved in the salting process could have an advantage over the corporation, which by law has to buy even fairly small sized fish. I suspect it is in this sort of debate that negotiations did not progress as much as we would have liked. There is no doubt that if the frozen market slows down, as it very well might, then the industry which a couple of years ago was doing extremely well in the frozen market might want to have a larger share in the salting operation.

Frankly, I have not seen the results of the period that intervened between my two "incarnations". I will have to check the records to see the point at which we arrived, and of course I will answer questions in the parliamentary committee if this question comes up. However, I will first check to see where we stand on this issue.

Clause agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

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## GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

### MEASURE RESPECTING RELOCATION

The House resumed, from Thursday, July 3, consideration of the motion of Mr. Cosgrove that Bill C-13, respecting the relocation of government agencies, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

**Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to say just a few words on Bill C-13 which has already been debated in the House on a couple of occasions. I should like to support the complaint which the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) made at the beginning of his first speech on this bill when he drew attention to the fact that far too often around here the government acts and then brings in the legislation afterwards. That is, in effect, what is happening in respect of this bill. Many decisions have been made and practically implemented before we get the bill to give parliamentary authorization thereto. As I say, this happens not only in respect of this piece of legislation, but it happens quite often. I think the government should be more respectful of the rights of Parliament in this regard.

● (1640)

As a matter of fact, something like this is happening on Parliament Hill right now. As hon. members know, we took over the East Block a couple of years ago in the belief that it