

Hansard will certainly be very useful to the Canadian people interested in the fishing industry.

[*English*]

Mr. Davis: He wants it included in the record.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I might point out that this is a practice we normally do not follow. In fact, we try to discourage it. As I said before, the House is the master of its own procedure and rules. I make the point that this seems to be a bad practice, but I am prepared to put the request to the House.

Mr. McGrath: What, precisely, are we being asked to put in the record?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member describes it as a series of figures or tables that he would like to include as part of his remarks in this debate. I think it is a dangerous practice which should be discouraged, but the hon. member has sought unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I take it that unanimous consent is not forthcoming.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Cyr: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my request.

The bill before us provides for the establishment of a Canadian Salfish Corporation, which will have to solve the numerous problems of the fishermen in eastern Canada, but what will happen to our fishermen and to the corporation if the cod is driven out of the gulf of St. Lawrence?

It is a recognized fact that cod feeds upon small fish like capelin and herring, which thrive in the gulf of St. Lawrence because herring fishing has not been intensified on the Atlantic coast.

For conservation purposes, the department prohibited, in 1967, the fishing of herring intended for processing plants, during the most productive period of the year.

Since 1967, producers of fish meal made of Atlantic deep-sea fish, increased the number of their fishing fleets and the herring catch has doubled in three years.

Three years ago, the Department of Fisheries and Forestry undertook studies on fishing in the gulf of St. Lawrence in order to determine the herring reserves and it seems that nobody has yet advised the minister to estab-

Canadian Salfish Corporation

lish restrictions on herring fishing on the Atlantic coast. Must there be a disaster before controls are imposed?

Mr. Speaker, there is danger in increasing fishing in herring reserves on the Atlantic coast, as it can imperil cod fishing as well as the fishing of other species.

I should like to point out to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry that we want to protect fisheries on the Atlantic coast and that we are afraid that the situation which prevails on the Pacific coast and in the Scandinavian countries will arise in the gulf of St. Lawrence and on the Atlantic coast.

I should also like to mention cod fishermen and ask the minister to undertake negotiations with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) so that the unemployment insurance contributions paid by the fishermen will be calculated on a monthly rather than a weekly basis.

Often the weekly catch is low at a given time of the fishing season and normal or excellent at other times.

If calculations are made every month and if price adjustments at the close of the season are taken into account, as recommended by the Canadian Salfish Corporation, the benefits which the fisherman will receive during the few months of unemployment will enable him to balance his family budget.

Four fishermen on a boat can catch about \$500 worth of fish in a normal week. If the 25 per cent provided under the act is deducted, the cod fisherman therefore earns a salary of \$100, which enables him to make a fair contribution to the unemployment insurance fund. If the contribution is determined on the basis of a week where the catch is worth \$200 per boat, it will be quite small and will tend to reduce the rate of benefits.

I doubt if the Canadian Salfish Corporation will become efficient within two seasons. The first years will be difficult, which is normal for such a corporation. The directors will have to negotiate with people who are used to depend on government welfare allowances to make both ends meet.

I know quite well the people of those depressed areas. I suggest that the Corporation should maintain a firm attitude from the very beginning of their operations and that the regulations in effect should not be the target of destructive criticisms from hon. members, for the sole purpose of playing politics, because in the long run, the fishermen will be the losers.