

Mr. MCGREGOR: Well this will be under constant review right from the very start, Mr. Hahn, to see how this works all the way through—I can assure you of that.

Mr. HAHN: Yes, I suppose after an assessment of the facts that we may have in regard to the decline in the amount of fish caught in relation to the number of fishermen who are fishing and what would be normal for them to catch, would determine exactly what effect this is going to have and to see whether the period might have to be changed. Did representations that you have received from the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union, take any exception to this date that you recall?

Mr. MCGREGOR: Oh yes, yes that was one thing that they put forward. For example, they suggested that we should say that the salmon fishermen would not be eligible for benefits during the salmon period and that the halibut fishermen would not be eligible for benefits during the halibut season, however I told Mr. Rigby that such an idea would create absolute chaos, for a man could come in today and say he was a halibut fisherman for this purpose and next week he could come in and say he was a salmon fisherman. That is something that we simply could not control. Nevertheless he was trying to press for it or something of this kind virtually he was also basically requesting the imposing of seasonal regulations something which we have just thrown out.

Mr. HAHN: Mr. Robichaud said to the commission, and I would certainly agree with him, that this is a tremendous job of work which you have done and you are to be complimented for achieving it as quickly as you have and bringing it into effect. With respect to the modifications which are needed, however, I hope that they will be brought in as quickly as possible.

Hon. Mr. GREGG: I do think that one of the most important things to be considered is that this is not going to kill initiative in any stage of the game or in any part of the country.

Mr. BARNETT: Mr. Hahn has mentioned the representations of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union and I have here a copy of the plan that they submitted to the minister under date of March 4, 1957, and they made suggestions in order to eliminate the inequities and anomalies regarding the adoption of benefit regulations presently proposed under the unemployment plan. I do not know what the minister thinks of this, but obviously he is not prepared to agree with all of their representations at this time. However I think the minister would probably agree with me that it is a document which represents quite a little bit of serious thought on their part and it has set forth rather ably, I feel, their views on the plan as they see it at the present time. Now earlier I think Mr. Johnston asked what fishermen thought of the plan and I think perhaps it might be of interest if I were to read to the committee a few of the comments in the introduction. They say the proposed plan of unemployment insurance of fishermen in Canada is in two important respects the most advanced and comprehensive legislation of its kind in the world.

Hon. Mr. GREGG: But they did not stop there though.

Mr. BARNETT: No, and then they point out what they consider to be the principal reasons for that. In my opinion they have raised some rather important questions in relation to the decisions that have been arrived at by the commission and by the government in introducing the plan; and I was wondering whether, in order that the members of the committee generally, could have an opportunity of analysing this plan as it is seen by the organizations which generally represent the fishermen on the Pacific coast, he would