

Supply—Fisheries

and to be smoked, and in the process some of the dissolved solids cling to the fish. All fish have some degree of slime and this matter just sticks to them and makes it that much worse. I know the minister is conscientious about this matter and we would appreciate something worth while being done.

Mr. Tucker: Mr. Chairman, I have one question to ask the minister. On January 14, 1964 a college of fisheries, navigation, marine engineering and electronics was opened in Newfoundland with Dr. W. F. Hampton as president. I am sure this college will prove very beneficial to our fisheries in Newfoundland. Dr. Hampton has worked as a control and research chemist with industry and has also served on the staff of the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations with headquarters in Rome. He also played a very important part in the development of the product now known as fish sticks. As a matter of fact, I believe he was primarily responsible for this development. Would the minister advise if his department provides grants for such colleges as the one recently opened in Newfoundland and whether these colleges have an integral part in the program of fisheries management and development of his department? Also, do they have a distinct role in the program of national fisheries development?

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the hon. member that we are co-operating very closely with the work being done at the new fisheries college recently established in Newfoundland. We are contributing technically, but so far as financial assistance is concerned that comes under the vocational training program of the Department of Labour.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Mr. Chairman, I have a few brief remarks and questions regarding vote No. 1 of the fisheries estimates. I congratulate the minister on his elevation to his important post in the cabinet. I listened with interest to the rosy picture he painted of our national fisheries industry. However, Mr. Chairman, I am not rising completely to that bait.

The federal Department of Fisheries seems to be principally interested in ocean fishing. I point out to the minister that in his speech he completely overlooked the great expanses of inland fresh water. I refer to the great lakes, lake Superior, lake Huron, lake Erie and lake Ontario. Each of them is a contributor to our international balance of trade through the fresh water fishery.

As I said, the minister painted a glowing and optimistic picture of the industry over which his department presides. I would point out to the minister that this is at variance with the latest commendable studies and work of economists. I happened to have in my office a book I obtained from the library some time ago. It is by Caves and Holton, economists of Harvard University and is entitled "The Canadian Economy". At page 560 they state:

The fisheries of Canada take the prize for slowest rate of growth of any of the major Canadian industries, with output rising only slightly more than 0.5 per cent annually since 1926.

So, we have nothing of which to be very proud, except the fact that the product of the industry is of great value for the sustenance of millions of people, especially in the United States.

I return again to the great lakes and the importance of the great lakes fisheries, Mr. Chairman, to our balance of trade. The principal market for fish from our district, that is the shores of Prince Edward-Lennox, is the New York market. As a result of what I believe to be the very serious condition existing in the great lakes, especially lake Ontario, which is the lowest of the lakes in the chain and thus receives all of the pollution that comes into the other lakes, the fishing industry is in serious condition. I have here, Mr. Chairman, a communication from an experienced fisherman who has devoted his life to the fishing industry in the county of Prince Edward. He sets out very briefly the conditions that exist, and I quote:

This will be my twentieth year in the commercial fishing business and during that time I have worked in just about every phase of the commercial fishing business. My company has been active in both catching and processing fish for human consumption. We have sold both packaged fish and live fish to wholesalers in Canada and the United States. About five years ago we noticed a decrease in some species of fish and at that time in order to substitute for this shortage we started to prepare fish for biological studies. Since then we have supplied such companies as Borealis Science of Cooksville, Ontario, Wards Science of Rochester, New York and Carolina Science of Burlington, North Carolina, with both fish and fish eggs that we scientifically prepared for biological studies. This sudden scarcity of fish in this part of lake Ontario is a real tragedy for many fishermen as fishing is all that many of them have ever done and there are 240 licences issued in this area for taking fish commercially. Many of them are wondering if this is the end of the business, and if so what to do from here on. We know that in the past some species of fish disappeared but they made a comeback but this time nearly all species are going and not even our top-notch biologists can tell us why. I feel that much research must be done—