

*Fisheries*

**The Deputy Chairman:** The hon. member for Middlesex on a point of order.

**Mr. Lind:** Mr. Chairman, I object to the remarks of the hon. member for Fraser Valley West when he implies there is shady business in respect of the change of a name merely from London and Midland General Insurance Company to Avco Insurance Company. This company has never been in bankruptcy. It has enjoyed doing business in the city of London. It is a respectable company which has been in operation for a number of years.

**Mr. Rose:** On a point of order—

**An hon. Member:** Six o'clock.

Progress reported.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

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**AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

**FISHERIES****ESTABLISHMENT OF FRESH WATER FISH MARKETING CORPORATION**

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt) (for the Minister of Trade and Commerce) for second reading and reference to the standing committee on fisheries and forestry of Bill C-148, to regulate interprovincial and export trade in freshwater fish and to establish the freshwater fish marketing corporation.

**Mr. Peters:** Just before the adjournment hour, Mr. Speaker, I was pointing out that this bill will have very far reaching effects in the development of the fishing industry where fishing is not now of commercial importance. The government will find itself involved in a very large operation before long. I concur with the previous speaker who indicated that the government would be very wise to be cautious in respect of capital expenditures for the establishment of this corporation. Changes will take place in respect of fish production and processing. This board will have to concentrate on selling fish to Canadians, and Canadians are not notably fish-eating people. Canadians have never taken advantage of this natural resource.

I am proud of the work done by the Department of Fisheries on the methods of production, utilization of fish products and

the issuing of pamphlets regarding culinary arts in respect of fish. I hope this effort continues. As a result of the establishment of this Crown corporation the government will be in the position of guaranteeing grades, freshness and suitability of products. In this country we have been provided with an inferior product, with a resultant decrease in the use of fish and its desirability. The government will also have to engage in a sales program of this Canadian product to Canadians and to export markets. In this regard it will face problems in respect of the saltfish market. I suggest before long this measure will be amended to cover the saltfish industry in Canada.

If the government attains success in the marketing of freshwater fish it will very shortly hear a clamour from the saltwater fish industry to provide the same type of service. I am sure this proposal will be amended before long to include that industry.

In closing, I should like to refer to the Indian population and the role that it could play in this field. Many areas in Manitoba, Northern Saskatchewan and Northern Alberta have Indian populations now engaged in commercial fishing. As a result of the enactment of this measure and the increase in markets in North America for freshwater fish, the Indian population will treat this industry in a little different manner.

The native population in Northern Ontario has never engaged to any great extent in commercial fishing. In many cases they do not have the knowledge or the equipment to fish commercially. In northwestern Ontario fishing could, and probably would, be a source of income for those who participate on a commercial basis.

The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) will have to take some interest in this measure. Success in this regard will require that hon. minister's co-operation because we could capitalize on the commercial production of fish as a source of income to the native population. There will have to be an influx of capital in these areas to provide a satisfactory economical development in this field.

This measure reminds me of the legislation in respect of feeds and grain. That measure had a great deal of merit and even more support. In my opinion it was very worthwhile, but it was not carefully considered. When this bill is referred to the committee I hope hon. members will consider the changes it will bring about in commercial fishing in those areas not now considered as economical