

Mr. CARTER: May I ask one more question? The way this fund is administered now indicates a heavy production of heavy salted fish as compared with light salted fish. Is anything being done to offset that?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Carter anticipated my question because I could see a smile on the face of the deputy minister because I remember trying to get the benefit of paying 75 per cent of the cost of light salted fish as compared with \$50,000 for heavy salted fish in the hope of getting more light salter fish produced. However, I think the department's view was that it was not practical. I wonder if they have changed their mind.

Mr. CLARK: It has been considered as a result of representations made from a number of sources. However, in actual amount the salt involved does not help much in increasing the fishermen's return. It is still the basic product, the fish itself, which I think would be more appropriate for the fishermen to go to increase his return.

Mr. BROWNE (*Vancouver-Kingsway*): On this question of British Columbia, Mr. Chairman, I think that there are some very small plants out there which do a little of this type of production but there are some salted herrings out there I think which have been shipped out in the last few years. Is it applicable to them?

Mr. CLARK: It has not applied to British Columbia. As to the production of dry salted herring in British Columbia for the past number of years the amount of dry salted herring produced in British Columbia is very, very small.

Mr. BROWNE (*Vancouver-Kingsway*): Do you not think that might help to increase the market if that were available out there? It has started now and I believe there has been some shipped to China in the last year or so and it might help to develop that market if we had that assistance.

Mr. CLARK: I doubt if the salt assistance would greatly affect the sales of dry salt herring to the oriental market.

Mr. BROWNE (*Vancouver-Kingsway*): Do you not think the individual packer out there who is packing would be in a comparable position to someone who is packing salted fish on the Atlantic coast and that it should be extended to him on that basis?

Mr. CLARK: One thing, Mr. Chairman, I think should be pointed out is that British Columbia salt herring, even the small quantities which are now being shipped, not to China, but to Hong Kong, are at much a higher sales price than dry salted cod.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall item 148 carry?

Item agreed to.

Item 149.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Do you want to take 563?

Mr. MACLEAN (*Queens*): Yes, I suggest we do. That is the supplemental.

The CHAIRMAN: Item 563?

Item agreed to.

Item 149?

149. To provide for assistance in the construction of vessels of the dragger or long liner type, subject to such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Governor in Council ..... \$350,000

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Chairman, item 149 is also an important item in so far as the fishermen on the Atlantic coast are concerned. The system of subsidy was established 12 or 13 years ago as it had a lot to do in modernizing our fishing fleet on the Atlantic coast. I think this program has reached a point now where there should be some substantial changes made.