

Supply—Fisheries

with the matter and this is the first time I have heard that the people administering the hurricane relief fund have overlooked anybody.

Mr. Harris: I hope nothing I said indicated that I was not satisfied with the effort and time put by the provincial authorities into the administration of the fund and in seeing that the needs of the people were met.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

Special—

583. To provide for assistance in the construction of vessels of the dragger and/or long liner type, subject to such terms and conditions as may be approved by the governor in council—further amount required, \$21,049.

Mr. Nowlan: This is a supplementary item of \$21,049 in addition to the \$200,000 we voted before. Can the minister tell us how many draggers are being constructed this year?

Mr. Harris: For the current fiscal year there will be 34 subsidy payments totalling the amount indicated, about \$221,000.

Mr. Nowlan: For 30 different construction jobs?

Mr. Harris: Yes.

Mr. Nowlan: This item, of course, will be recurring in the general estimates that we will consider in a few weeks, and it can be discussed at greater length than now.

Mr. Harris: Thank you.

Mr. Nowlan: I am sure the minister will appreciate my thoughtfulness on this occasion. I noticed in the press this week a news story, which of course does not necessarily represent government policy but which suggested some knowledge of policy. It was to the effect that an interdepartmental committee had been working on this matter of trawlers off the coast, that it was prepared to report in the very near future, and that there might be the possibility of a change in government policy with respect to this whole matter. I believe the committee had some legal advice from Dean Curtis of the University of British Columbia in dealing with the whole problem.

As the minister well knows, one of the conditions of the licence for each one of those 30 projects to which he has referred will be that they cannot operate within the 12-mile limit off Canadian shores, whereas United States fishermen are allowed to operate within 3 miles of Canadian shores. This, in itself, creates a problem. The operation of these

vessels within the 3-mile limit creates another problem. In many places I know the situation is intolerable.

Frankly I do not believe the government can justify going ahead year after year spending public money for the construction of Canadian boats, manned by Canadian crews, and permitting them to come only within 12 miles of our coast, whereas under international law United States fishermen are allowed to come within 3 miles. I would rather see them all kept outside the 12-mile limit, because they are doing a great deal of damage to our inshore fisheries.

I should like to know if there is any statement with respect to this matter that the minister can make now?

Mr. Harris: I am sorry, there is not. I would not want to say anything now about whether or not the report has any foundation. I think my hon. friend will get full information on the fisheries estimates.

Item agreed to.

584. Amount required to recoup the fisheries prices support account to cover the net operating loss on completed programs of the fisheries prices support board as at March 31, 1955, \$744,382.

Mr. Nowlan: In the general estimates we voted only the amount for the administration of this board. At the time I questioned the minister at some length, and he said that was all that was necessary to vote because apparently there were no foreseeable expenses for which he could provide in the main estimates. We voted some \$85,000 for administration, and now we are asked to vote \$744,000 to cover an operating loss on the completed program of the fisheries prices support board, as at March 31, 1955. I would have thought that part of that would have resulted from the operations of last spring, and we would have had some provision made in the general estimates. Can the minister tell us what were the operations, and how the losses did occur?

Mr. Harris: There are quite a number, and if the committee permits me I shall read them. There is the prairie provinces frozen fish support program in 1953-54, which showed a net loss of \$191,521. There is the pickled mackerel fillets deficiency payments program in the Magdalen islands, Richmond and Inverness counties, Nova Scotia, in 1952-53, showing a loss of \$21,903. There is a small loss for Newfoundland, the shore-caught salted codfish deficiency payment program, of \$478. There is a small credit from the Canadian Commercial Corporation of \$40. All this comes to \$213,862. There is a further item of \$355 with respect to the Magdalen