

Mr. PICKERSGILL: On a point of order, we are discussing the item on Newfoundland bait service. I do not desire in any way to restrict Mr. Crouse, but I think we have more questions on that particular item and I wonder if we should not continue in an orderly way on that before we go back to that item already passed.

Mr. CROUSE: I was uncertain whether this was passed or not. Can we refer to that later on?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. TUCKER: How many bait depots are actually in operation in Newfoundland at the present time?

Mr. CLARK: We now have, Mr. Chairman, 23.

Mr. TUCKER: May I have a list of the locations of these units from an official of the department?

Mr. CLARK: Yes sir.

Mr. CARTER: Did I understand Mr. McArthur to say that this complete prefabricated storage unit with cooling operation can be established in any settlement for roughly around \$5,500 for a 20,000 pound capacity.

Mr. McARTHUR: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is to some extent an experiment this year. I am not sure whether the minister mentioned this or not, but the provision this year is for four of these units because it is essentially on an experimental basis. The unit is prefabricated, made of four by eight panels which are fastened together with patented arrangements. One of these panels is a cooling unit, and the thing can be broken down very quickly, in a matter of an hour or so, and moved, even by helicopter, if necessary, because the individual panels can be taken apart. It is completely flexible in that respect and is completely self-contained and automatic and maintains a temperature of zero. Those are roughly the specifications.

Mr. CARTER: Would it be possible then for a fisherman to take advantage of the small loans fund to acquire these plants for themselves if they wanted to?

Mr. McARTHUR: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I should think so. The maximum loan, of course, under the Fisherman's Improvement Loan Act is \$4,000. But, there is provision in that act for loans for the acquisition of buildings and shore installations.

Mr. CARTER: A group of fishermen could combine, if they wished, to make advantage of that. Have you any idea about the maintenance and operation costs? What are they likely to be during a year, not including salaries?

Mr. McARTHUR: I cannot tell you precisely what the maintenance cost would be. These units are not likely to be in operation continuously for 12 months of the year. Our plan is to fill these units periodically during the season of bait supply and bait use. They would probably be more or less closed up at the end of the fall fishing season and just remain closed until the next year.

Mr. TUCKER: Could these plants not be set up as mobile units?

Mr. McARTHUR: They could be installed on a truck, I should imagine, but when one bears in mind the road facilities in Newfoundland in certain areas, it would create a problem.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: They are improved now.

Mr. McARTHUR: That is true for the Avalon peninsula. In certain areas you can ship by truck.

Mr. CARTER: These units can only hold bait which is already frozen. They could not freeze bait themselves?