

Government Organization

built in the days of R. B. Bennett. The underpinning of the wharf is reaching a serious stage of deterioration. Some day the wharf may float out to sea. The Department of Public Works has looked at the problem of replacing the wharf and this has been recommended to the central authorities in Ottawa. On one occasion before the election I persuaded the then Minister of Public Works to have this project included in the estimates. After the election new estimates were presented; the Sambro wharf was not included and it was not included in this year's estimates. I am at present taking this matter up with the Minister of Public Works and I hope to have the assistance of the Minister of Fisheries in having the estimate restored. A new wharf in this successful fishing village will promote revenue in an area that now suffers because of a lack of such facilities. I think the minister is aware of this type of problem.

Government reorganization is a recurring phenomenon of our times. When reorganization is dealt with again I hope the Minister of Fisheries will have his own wharf program to enable him to build up growth in natural fishing areas in all parts of Canada.

Mr. Davis: I would like to comment, Mr. Chairman, on some of the remarks by hon. members. The hon. member for South Shore asked if a market study is being carried out by the Atlantic Development Board. I am informed that this study is nearing completion and the results will be made available not only to the new Department of Regional Economic Expansion but also the fisheries department. This information will be used in our own evaluation of the frozen groundfish market. I know the information will be most useful to the Fisheries Price Support Board when it is determining what action to take in order to stabilize prices for frozen groundfish, particularly in the United States market.

The hon. member also asked about the timing of our announcement with regard to frozen groundfish. One of the considerations was the state of the market itself. I think the timing of the announcement has been fortunate as our selling price is now beginning to move up and I hope will move up appreciably in the next few weeks. As several members have stated, the price for codfish blocks has been in the 20 to 21 cent range. It is now firming up, rising several cents since my announcement. I am hopeful it will rise in the near future to 27 or 28 cents.

The hon. member for Fraser Valley West asked about the Indian fisheries program in

British Columbia. The Department of Indian Affairs has a joint program with the Department of Fisheries. The budget for this program is \$4½ million. This fund is available to fishermen wishing to purchase old or new vessels or gear. It will also enable the Indian people to instal inshore processing facilities and otherwise to expand their role in the fishing industry. This is a special provision for the native people on the west coast, and I hope it will go a long way toward overcoming the serious unemployment problem in the inshore fishery in B.C.

The hon. member for Coast Chilcotin raised the question of offshore limits and also the question of the establishment of base lines. I am hopeful that in the relatively near future we will be able to satisfy him in that regard.

The hon. member for Victoria asked about sports fishing licences on the west coast. I assure the hon. member I have no intention of setting up a sports fishing licence scheme in respect of the salt water fishery of the west coast of Canada.

The hon. member for Skeena was concerned about what he called the abuse of sport fishing privileges. He must realize that particularly in those areas near Vancouver there is a large number of sports fishermen who have a very substantial investment in sports fishing gear. The recreational interests of those numerous taxpayers should also be borne in mind.

The hon. member for Kootenay West stressed the need for conservation of our resources of both fish and trees. We need a co-ordinated approach to resource development for all our renewable resources, including forests, fish and wildlife. The maximum benefit as far as the Canadian community is concerned must be paramount. This thought must be uppermost in our minds.

I have had discussions with a number of provincial ministers responsible for resources development in an endeavour to co-ordinate our activities, both federal and provincial, in the areas of fisheries and forestry. In particular I have had discussions with the hon. Ray Williston, provincial minister of lands, forests and water resources in British Columbia, in this connection. I am confident he and I will be in touch with one another with regard to joint resource development problems, like river drives, as floating logs can interfere with the salmon resource, and the efficient operation of the forest industry in river systems which are also vital to our fishery.