

ensure the survival of these small processors. I think it is important that these small processing companies survive.

I share the concern of my hon. friend opposite about the corporate concentration which has been taking place in the industry over the past few years. This corporate concentration does not bode well for the future of the industry, so far as the individual fisherman is concerned. I think the best opportunity we have to ensure that the individual fishermen will be adequately protected is to ensure that the industry remains competitive. The only way the industry can remain competitive, in my view, is so long as we have in place policies which will create a climate whereby the smaller processor cannot just exist but thrive and prosper.

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member's point is well taken. In fact, we did look at the possibility of bringing in an amendment which might have authorized the corporation to widen its mandate, and for the very same reason the hon. member has expressed I felt that this would drag the corporation into the sort of debate which really should be settled not in that area but when and if the government brings in legislation to create orderly marketing, which could be a form of export licences, some other groupings, consortia or some other approaches which are now the subject of considerable discussion between my department, the provinces and the industry.

I think the hon. member's point that this could be an excuse for an attack against the corporation, or for this sort of amendment to be brought in or for a practice to be generalized, is a point which is well taken. If I had to err, I would prefer to err on the side of trying to help a few very small processors, who at the moment have no legal framework in which they can associate.

In fact, it might be that in the new legislation in which some groupings are created or are formed the Crown corporations in one way or another could act as a sort of umbrella for small processors who have nowhere to go and who are a bit worried about the type of concentration which my predecessor spoke about. However, I think these are issues which should be the subject of a wider debate. That being said, I recognize the hon. member's point.

**Mr. Miller:** Mr. Chairman, on the point of orderly marketing, I have just spent three days in Nova Scotia and met many processors who are concerned particularly about what an orderly marketing board might be. I do not want to get into a prolonged discussion about it today, but one of the concerns the fishery has is not knowing where the department or where the minister is going. I think it behooves the minister to make some of those critical decisions so that processors and fishermen have a better idea of the direction of the department and so that they can get on with the process of catching more fish and processing those fish for bigger and better markets.

I would like just to ask the minister if he could elaborate on the kinds of facilities that he sees this \$30 million may be helping to initiate more than to provide. Does he see those facilities in the present processing plants that we have in Newfoundland, Labrador and on the northern shore of

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Quebec, or does he see an increase in the number of processing plants for saltfish in Newfoundland particularly, tending to be supportive of smaller communities, rather than the larger companies getting into saltfish through the corporation and marketing through that corporation? I think it is important to understand the desire of the people of Newfoundland to maintain as much as possible the type of fleet that is associated with the community.

I suppose my biggest concern right now is the increased funding going into the support of those processors which are already there, and if we expand our markets to increase the number of small processing plants in areas which perhaps are experiencing high unemployment as a result both of a lack of fish in those areas and a lack of markets for the fish.

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Alberni raises the point of orderly marketing. I think it was about two and a half years ago that I indicated that as the stocks were recovering I thought the Canadian industry should improve its co-ordination in the field of marketing, that we should not continue to have two or three dozen Canadian processors selling fish to brokers in competition with each other, and that our best competitors—I am thinking of the Japanese, Norwegian and Icelanders—had in fact co-ordinated and organized their foreign marketing efforts and were outcompeting us.

At the time the industry requested that it be given a chance to explore this and to come up with a voluntary approach at first. I felt that this occasion should be provided, but now even the industry does recognize that, although the voluntary approach has much to be said for it, those who are not voluntary in fact can become the culprits or the people responsible for fire sales and price cutting which, of course, weakens everybody else in the foreign markets. They can also sometimes be responsible for shipments which may not be of the highest quality.

● (1630)

So there is a general recognition that we should have a more organized and a more orderly marketing framework. On the west coast, the hon. member's coast, this is seen as being less necessary, and I suspect that the industry in that area feels that it can handle marketing with perfect competence. In fact, historically it has done quite a good job and I do not want to take anything away from them. That is why I see the possibility of formations taking place more on a regional basis than otherwise, and it may be that at one point the British Columbia industry will want us to put around some of their operations the type of framework which other countries have which strengthen their presence in foreign markets.

There is no doubt that we are in a situation in which, I think, my colleague the Minister of Justice, when he was in the Treasury Board, used to say that everybody wants to go to heaven but no one wants to die. So everyone wants Canadians to get the best market for fish on condition that this does not limit their freedom. Of course, this would not be imposed for ideological reasons. I think the idea is gaining ground now.