

want those people to go to the north and listen to those who are actually fishing.

Just as the provincial minister from Manitoba did when he went north and found that he could not get one single fisherman to support his attempts to privatize the industry, I think the mover of this motion and others in this House who have that same dogmatic, privateering ideology, would find out that the fishermen want the FFMC. There is definitely a need for improvement and definitely many things could be done, but I say to hon. members not to tell the fishermen they are not looked after by the FFMC.

**Mr. Siddon:** All we want to do is break the monopoly.

**Mr. Murphy:** Yes, break the monopoly. We have heard that before. I spent this morning in the transportation committee. CN has let some of the CN Express business go to privateers. These are pool carriers. They have taken off the cream of the crop. Do hon. members know what CN is saying now? CN is saying they will have to count on the CN Express service to northern Manitoba because the cream of the crop has gone to these privateers. If that is the same thing as what the former member is asking for in the fishing industry, we will end up with a system where the fishermen will not get a good price for their product. We will end up with a system where the profitable markets are taken by those in a position to run them. Licences will no longer be owned by the fishermen or people living in the communities, but by others. We will have economic serfdom on the lakes of Manitoba.

● (1750)

**An hon. Member:** Sounds communistic.

**Mr. Murphy:** If that is communistic, I guess every fisherman in Manitoba is a communist. However, they do not think that. These people live off the land, trying to get a good income with their traditional way of life. They want organizations, whether it is the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, CN or whatever, to help and not hurt them in that endeavour.

[Translation]

**Mr. Michel Veillette (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring my humble contribution to this debate and speak about the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. It is a well known fact that our country has the largest natural supply of freshwater in the world. The figures are impressive. Of the nearly ten million square kilometres which make up the Canadian territory, about 8 per cent, or over 750,000 square kilometres, are made up of lakes and rivers which retain the annual runoff of approximately seven million and a quarter tons of water in the form of rain or snow. This is a physical reality. It is an abundant and renewable natural resource which we have the responsibility to monitor and preserve.

According to various estimates, this abundant fresh water supply represents either one-tenth or one-quarter of world fresh water supplies. This shows how lucky we are in this

#### *Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation*

regard. But there is more. The major part of this water is made up of cold water, which means the proliferation of a fish fauna which has relatively little variety, but as all experts will point out, it is extremely vigorous and prized for its excellent sporting and combative spirit.

This is why our country is known as the paradise of sports fishermen, and we should obviously be the last ones to complain about this.

I have talked, Mr. Speaker, about the fish fauna and the combative fish which proliferate in our lakes and rivers. We naturally think in this regard of salmon and trout, and we readily recognize that the reputation of these two species attracts every year hundreds of thousands of visitors, who are all eager to practice their favorite sport of fishing. This has brought us an enviable reputation for tourism. But once again, there is more.

Since the beginning of our history, freshwater fishing has provided fresh fish to the inhabitants of our country in the same way as our lakes and rivers have offered easy, abundant and varied access routes to our explorers. Because trout and whitefish get together for the spawning season, the first settlers were able to harvest large quantities of these species in the fall to salt and store them for winter.

In 1867 at the beginning of confederation, we are told that 1,700 commercial fishermen were taking 3.5 million pounds of freshwater fish in Canada. Considering the constant development of urban centres, the demand from domestic and foreign markets, the interest shown in some species such as pickerel, pike, sturgeon, freshwater fishing has gradually developed to become a lively and viable industry. The condition of commercial freshwater fisheries vary from one province to another and we are going to deal with some aspects of the administrative skills required in their operation. This reminder is valid because it is based on constitutional sharing under the British North America Act. According to the Canadian Constitution, the federal government is fully empowered to legislate in the area of offshore and continental fisheries in Canada and any legislation aimed at protecting, conserving and developing fisheries is passed by Parliament. Fisheries as such are managed with the co-operation of provincial governments which are entrusted with administrative responsibilities. For example, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans assumes its responsibilities for freshwater and saltwater fisheries in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, as well as in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

On the other hand, in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the fisheries are administered by the provincial authorities. In Quebec, following a decision of the Privy Council in 1922, that was added to in 1943 and finalized in 1959, the provincial government has jurisdiction over both saltwater and freshwater fishing, while the inspection of the fish and its products intended for the market outside the province is a federal government responsibility. From all we have seen till