

Freshwater Fish Marketing Report

● (12 noon)

or four members of the board of directors be selected from among those who are actively engaged in the industry as fishermen, and I would support the amendment on that basis.

I also think it is important that there at least be some representation of those engaged as fishermen on the board of directors, inasmuch as the board will, in a sense, be operating with and spending money that is really the fishermen's money. I understand that there will perhaps be an establishment grant in the order of \$100,000 paid by the federal government and each of the three provinces, which will be contributing on a prorated basis, such as \$50,000 federal and \$25,000 from each of the three provinces, or some proportion of that sort.

Once the \$100,000 establishment grant from the federal and provincial governments has been received, all of the operating expense of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board will come out of the proceeds of the corporation's operations, which in turn will be derived from the production of the fishermen themselves. Therefore, if the money of these fishermen is going to be spent in operating the board and paying its administrative costs and salaries, it seems only logical that the fishermen be granted some direct say at the board of directors level.

The minister may well reply that provision is made later on in the bill, in clause 18 or so, to enable the minister to establish an advisory board consisting of 14 or 15 persons. It may well be that the minister may want to select five, six, seven or eight of the 15 members of this advisory board from among those who are actually engaged in fishing. But it is interesting to note that there is nothing specific in the legislation that provides that the advisory board shall necessarily have fishermen-producers actually on the board. It seems to me that the minister would want to agree that the legislation should make some specific provision to include fishermen on the advisory board.

It may be that there will be a number of fishermen on the advisory board but I would insist that there be at least 2, 3 or 4, some small number such as that—I would not want to go beyond that figure for practical reasons—on the membership of the board of directors itself. I do not know what arguments the minister would advance in opposition to this amendment, but we shall soon find out.

I have also one further argument to advance in support of the contention that there be some fishermen among the membership of the board of directors. There is a tendency, human nature being what it is, for boards or administrative bodies to start making free with other people's money. We can see how that has happened with the Canadian Wheat Board. One can see it happening with boards of directors of private corporations. Once set up boards of directors or similar administrative bodies establish themselves in lavishly furnished headquarter offices and they do not stint on the trappings that go with administrative offices. I feel that such a tendency toward extravagance would be curtailed if on the board to be set up one or two actual producers or fishermen were included. Their presence on the board might restrain any tendency toward extravagance by other board members. I think this is a concrete argument, and I believe there should be provision in this bill for the inclusion of two or three producers or fishermen on the board to be set up.

I will say no more, Mr. Speaker, because I am interested to hear the remarks of the Minister without Portfolio. I hope he will support the amendment.

Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, if the minister rises now will he terminate debate?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is referring, of course, to a substantive motion moved by a minister on second reading or third reading. What is before the house at the moment is an amendment moved by an hon. member. Therefore the participation of the minister will not close debate.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the amendment before us was raised in committee and the committee decided, in its wisdom, against allowing it. I had the opportunity of commenting to the committee about the amendment, and I wish to say that our position at this time remains the same. The amendment is an undesirable one. The purposes of the corporation are of a commercial nature. Marketing is to be the corporation's prime objective. The possibility exists that the corporation may engage in many different facets of the fishing industry. It is therefore important that the men appointed to be directors should be chosen