

Fisheries Improvement Loans Act

For the moment, and in view of the fact that we have proceeded this far with the consideration of the proposed legislation, I would suggest to hon. members that there be a submission to the house of the amendment to be proposed by the hon. member for South Shore.

• (10:30 a.m.)

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore) moved:

That Bill C-195, an act to amend the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act, be amended by deleting clause 1 of the said bill and substituting the following therefor:

(1) All that portion of paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 3 of the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act following subparagraph (ii) thereof is repealed and the following substituted therefor: "did not exceed fifty thousand dollars;"

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will appreciate that there are in connection with this motion objections of the same nature as those raised with regard to the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis) on another subject. I would like to hear the hon. member on that point.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, in moving the amendment calling for an increase in the amount which may be borrowed under this legislation from \$25,000 to \$50,000, it is not my intention to speak at great length or unduly delay the passage of the bill. When this matter came before the house for second reading on Tuesday, May 27, there were, unfortunately, very few members in the chamber actively interested in fisheries and forestry problems, because second reading was called at the same time as a meeting of the Fisheries and Forestry Committee. I mention this because you, sir, referred to the delay in bringing these amendments before the house.

As a result of this lack of planning very few members of parliament representing fishing and forestry constituencies were in the chamber and unfortunately they did not hear the minister's statement on this important legislation. I hope this action will not be repeated in the future, because I do not believe it makes for good government to have a minister of the crown piloting legislation through the house at the same time as a committee is sitting to deal with the department concerned. The legislation—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that the point before the house at the present time is whether the

proposed amendment is in order. I indicated to the hon. member that I have serious reservations about the amendment. The objection I have is that the amendment appears to imply a charge on the treasury. If it does, it cannot of course be moved by the hon. member at this time.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, the legislation as it now stands, raising the ceiling on loans from \$10,000 to \$25,000 under the act, is in accordance with an amendment that we on this side proposed to Bill C-151 when it was before the Fisheries and Forestry Committee on February 6 of this year. To indicate the reasons for moving that this amount be raised from \$25,000 to \$50,000 I would point out certain changes which have occurred since Bill C-151 was passed.

There have been debates in this house with regard to the inflationary expansion in the economy. Our fishermen are subject to the same inflationary strains as are faced by other Canadians. I believe it is important that we raised the amount of the loan, because loans made under this legislation are only backed by the government and are in fact made by the lending institutions. The government only guarantees the amount. Since the legislation has been in effect the number of loans the government has had to repay has been very small in relation to the over-all amount lent by the lending institutions. For this reason I believe the amendment is in order.

Mr. Speaker: I might point out to the house before calling on the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett) that perhaps the arguments the hon. member is now advancing would be more properly made at the third reading stage of the bill. In any event, I will hear the hon. member for Comox-Alberni on the point of order raised by the hon. member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse).

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): On the point of order under consideration, I would submit to Your Honour that in the light of the statement contained in the recommendation this proposal does two things; first, it limits the maximum liability of the Crown to \$10 million and, second, it increases the amount of a loan that may be made to an individual fisherman. I submit for Your Honour's consideration that the amendment as proposed would not increase the liability of the Crown. If the hon. member's proposed amendment were agreed to, it might result in