

[Text]

announcement in detail now because I do want to discuss this with the provinces which do have loan funds and so on and there would be an overlapping. We should first arrange to have an appropriate meshing of the provincial and this new federal loan scheme.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Do you hope in the next session to do this?

Mr. Davis: I would hope that before the end of the year we would have it all set up and operating.

There is one other matter and it deals specifically with British Columbia and specifically with refinancing. The packing companies make loans to fishermen for the purchase of company-owned vessels broadly speaking under two headings, one referred to generally as agreements of sale and, the other, mortgages. I think it is possible through the new licensing scheme that we have out in British Columbia progressively to reduce the numbers of agreements of sale. If we were arbitrarily to strike off, say, 10 per cent each year or something like that we would be penalizing the fisherman with agreements of sale, so we obviously cannot strike them off arbitrarily. But it does occur to me that of the 800-odd agreements of sale outstanding we could put the companies on notice that we would not renew agreements of sale to another fisherman. So that whenever the current agreement expired because the company called the vessel in then the company, to avoid being placed in jeopardy of losing a licence for the next year, would have to put the boat out under a proper mortgage arrangement. So I think it is possible through the administration of the licensing scheme to progressively reduce the numbers of agreements of sale. These would only lapse, of course, when the fishermen and the company in question came apart.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): And perhaps at the same time you could look at some of the onerous provisions in those conditional sales agreements which are pretty tough on the rights of the individual.

Mr. Davis: Yes, they are very tough and there have been a variety of them, some of them worse indeed than others. We have asked the companies to take a good hard look at them and to come up with a

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standard agreement of sale which we would, if not endorse, at least have a look at and they would be aware that we had looked hard at it. But I do think that we might well move in the way I have mentioned to eliminate agreements of sale altogether. It will be interesting to see whether the fishermen in the last analysis want them all eliminated.

The Chairman: Mr. Guay?

[Interpretation]

que je veux étudier la question avec les provinces qui ont des caisses de prêts, et il risque d'y avoir un chevauchement. Nous devrions tout d'abord tâcher de faire en sorte que les programmes fédéraux et provinciaux concordent bien.

M. Howard (Skeena): Pendant la prochaine session, croyez-vous accomplir cela?

M. Davis: J'espère qu'avant la fin de l'année, tout ceci sera en marche.

L'autre question, c'est au sujet de la Colombie-Britannique, et plus particulièrement du refinancement. Les conserveries font des prêts aux pêcheurs pour acheter des bateaux appartenant à la compagnie. D'une part, ils font des contrats de vente et de l'autre, ils accordent des hypothèques. Il est possible je crois, grâce au nouveau programme de permis, de réduire le nombre de contrats de vente. Si nous éliminions 10 p. 100 chaque année de façon arbitraire, ce serait pénaliser le pêcheur qui a un contrat, et nous ne le ferons pas. Sur les 800 et quelques contrats de vente en ce moment, nous pourrions prévenir les compagnies que nous n'allons pas renouveler les contrats pour d'autres pêcheurs. Donc, lorsque le contrat en cours prend fin parce que la compagnie a rappelé un bateau, de peur de perdre un permis pour l'année à venir, on devrait prendre des dispositions pour accorder un hypothèque. Donc, je crois qu'il serait possible, grâce aux permis, de réduire le nombre de contrats de vente. Le contrat échoirait, simplement, quand les pêcheurs et les compagnies se sépareraient.

M. Howard (Skeena): Vous pourriez aussi étudier certaines conditions assez onéreuses qui figurent dans ces contrats et qui lèsent les droits individuels.

M. Davis: Oui, ces conditions sont dures, et certaines le sont plus que d'autres. Nous avons demandé aux compagnies de les étudier, d'établir un contrat uniforme que nous étudierons; elles se ren-

draient ainsi compte que nous avons étudié la question de prêts. Je crois qu'on pourrait éliminer peu à peu tous les contrats de vente. Il faudrait voir maintenant si les pêcheurs souhaitent qu'on les élimine tous.

Le président: Monsieur Guay?