

Fisheries

corporations whose operations are integrated right across the United States, doing whatever further processing is required and selling their own brand name products from one coast of the country to the other. With this sort of arrangement we would get our fair share of the retail price that is paid by housewives in the United States and Canada, and as a result our fishing industry would be much healthier.

In turn, our industry would be able to lend itself to more predictable operations, attract more money, buy better plant and equipment, and as a result we would all be better off.

There is a division of labour, naturally, between departments. For example, the Department of Fisheries administers the Fisheries Act, the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act and so on. Basically, the Department of Fisheries looks toward the fishermen and the fish processing industry of this country.

The department of trade and commerce, which is now the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, is responsible for international trade, particularly for the promotion and development of expanding markets and the securing of a fair share of markets abroad. Since interprovincial trade is also trade, I would say that, to some extent at least, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce has an important responsibility there as well.

The legislation setting up the freshwater fish marketing corporation is joint legislation with the provinces. The provinces are taking an inward look and will be responsible for the redevelopment of plants, the acquiring of property within the provinces, and so on. So that in some measure, the provinces will be doing what the federal Department of Fisheries may do in other areas. As I have said, fisheries department also has an involvement. Certainly the fisheries department is involved through its inspection service, and the federal Fish Inspection Act provisions will have to be adhered to so far as the processing and marketing of fish products are concerned. In addition, the provisions of the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act will apply, as will the fishermen's indemnity plan. So, this is a co-operative enterprise, as many such enterprises are.

I am pleased to endorse the motion of the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lang), speaking on behalf of the department of trade and commerce, in regard to this bill, which I think is a worthy one and I hope will receive speedy passage through the committee on

[Mr. Davis.]

fisheries and forestry of the House of Commons.

• (8:50 p.m.)

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I had no intention whatever of participating in this debate. This afternoon when I heard the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lang) say that this legislation applied to northwestern Ontario I thought his inexperience had probably caused him to make that remark. Tonight, after hearing the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) say this bill only applies to northern Ontario, I am completely perplexed. Clause 25(1) of the bill says:

In this section, "province..." means... Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario or the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Peters: That is because they have no name for northern Ontario.

Mr. Rynard: Not north of Aurora, anyway.

Mr. McCutcheon: Maybe we have two jurisdictions here, although I am completely unaware of that fact. I should like to know why the fishermen of Lake Erie are precluded from this plan? I notice that the main catch, yellow perch, from that particular body of water is covered by the legislation. Although the fishermen I am referring to may be in better shape financially than some of the other fishermen that have been referred to by other hon. members in the debate this afternoon, they are not all that well off. The fishermen of Lake Erie want to know why they cannot be included in a marketing scheme, if it is good. For the last several years they have co-operated extremely well with the federal government in a quota system, and that cost the government plenty of money. Unfortunately, the money did not seem to filter down to the point where it could help the individual fisherman. Now, the fishermen from the north shore of Lake Erie want to know the how-come and why of the present situation. Are they not included because there is only one big market or only one big processor? They want to know what steps they should take to be included.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It is my duty to inform the house that if the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lang) speaks now he will close debate.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, this has been a very interesting debate in a general way. I was