

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

could be converted to dogfish harvesting, thus solving another acute financial problem of at least a section of our fishing industry in British Columbia.

Off season employment would effect substantial savings in the matters of unemployment insurance and welfare payments. But, above all, let us not be defeatist about the challenge of the dogfish. Many other resources have been dismissed as valueless because, seemingly, they held out little potential, and we have known them in the history of Canada. Yet, subsequently, they became very valuable because we have applied know-how in research and some development dollars.

With the application of some foresight, some well distributed dollars, and some Canadian ingenuity, the lowly dogfish or the Pacific tuna, however it may be named—the deep sea turkey, as my friend here suggests—would become a major source of wealth to our fishing community in the nation. Let us hope that at least a beginning of a solution will be found this week.

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member's question I should like to say, first of all, that the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) is meeting representatives of the fishing industry and of the fishermen themselves in British Columbia this week, along with Japanese officials. That is why he is not present in the house.

The suggestions for exploratory discussions were initiated during meetings between the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry for Canada and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry for Japan during the Canada-Japan ministerial meetings in Tokyo in April. We realize that only 25 years ago the dogfish, which was the most valuable single species contributing to the fisheries economy of British Columbia, was so heavily exploited that it was threatened with depletion. However, before appropriate conservation measures could be developed and enacted, the problem was solved by economics.

In 1950 the market for dogfish liver collapsed, as the hon. member said, and brought the fishery to an abrupt end. We are told that in Japan the dogfish catch has dropped from 67,000 tons a year a decade ago to around 15,000 tons in 1968.

I agree with the hon. member that dogfish should be renamed. In parts of Europe it is called the greyfish and used in fish and chips.

[Mr. Perrault.]

In other parts of Europe it is used as a salted delicacy and eaten to the accompaniment of beer in beer gardens. In Japan it is used in many different ways. If dogfish is properly harvested, cleaned, etc. after being caught, it can be made into a very good food for human consumption.

● (10:30 p.m.)

I will stress again that it is in our interest in the Department of Fisheries to make sure that the fishermen of British Columbia are protected. These meetings are exploratory, and we hope some good will come out of them. We are optimistic at this time because of the Japanese initiative in seeking to take part in some program which we may be able to work out to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

FISHERIES—ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.—LICENSING OF FOREIGN VESSELS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, on July 2, as reported at page 10755 of *Hansard*, I asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Whelan) a question relating to the prohibition of the granting of licences enabling foreign trawlers to use the Port of St. John's.

At that time, in your wisdom, Your Honour ruled that my question should more properly be asked at the time of adjournment. I am sure you did not mean to reflect in any way upon the urgency of my question, because it is one of great urgency. Under present Canadian law, all foreign fishing vessels desiring to use Canadian ports on the east coast must first obtain licences. These licences used to be granted by the local customs officers. Recently, however, this function has been taken over by the federal Department of Fisheries.

On June 23 last, the St. John's office of the Department of Fisheries issued the following circular concerning the issuance of licences, that is circular No. 12-1969, File No. 728-1-2, and it reads:

To: All shipping agents re issuance of foreign fishing vessels licences and permits.

When the issuance of foreign fishing vessel licences was transferred from the Canadian customs to this department, you were advised that it was not our intention to issue these licences and/or other permits on Saturdays, Sundays or statutory holidays. Realizing that it would take some time for you to acquaint the foreign fishing vessel captains with this procedure, we have been providing issuance service on a limited basis during the weekends. During the month of July, an officer will be on duty for the issuance of foreign fishing