

Freshwater Fish Marketing Report

Mr. Anderson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. McGrath: I did not interrupt the hon. member when he was making his speech.

Mr. Anderson: I rise on a point of order. I appreciate that I was not interrupted by the hon. member while I was making my speech, but on the other hand I did not refer to him as he has done to me. I did not state that fishermen are incapable of doing anything else. I think they are capable of doing other things and doing them well, but I say they are extremely successful at fishing. Marketing seems to be an area in which we have not had the same success, and that is the reason for this bill.

Mr. McGrath: The hon. member did make the suggestion from which I drew that inference. He went on to refer to the amendment as a negative and retrogressive step. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the attitude of the government toward this amendment is both negative and retrogressive. This concept is no longer accepted. It is outmoded to think that fishermen are merely good at catching fish and no good for anything else. It is a shameful concept and a shameful thing for a member of the government party to suggest. This is what the government is suggesting by refusing to accept this amendment.

The hon. gentleman, in trying to defend the government's attitude, went on to say that the government has to ensure that we get the best possible people on this board. Is he suggesting that fishermen are less than the best possible people? Surely they know more about fishing than anyone else. Who would know more about the marketing of fish or the people who buy fish than those actively engaged in the industry?

I suggest that on reflection the hon. member will wish he had not said these things. If he came from the Atlantic provinces he certainly would not have said them. Perhaps he said them because he comes from the province of British Columbia where the industry is operated on a different basis. Otherwise it is difficult to understand why he would put the proposition forward that fishermen are not capable or qualified to participate in the functions or deliberations of this board.

I am becoming increasingly suspicious about the government's preoccupation with experts and computers. We saw an example of what experts can do in respect of the refitting of the *Bonaventure*. We can well do without that kind of expertise.

[Mr. McGrath.]

I regret to note that the Minister of Fisheries, the Minister without Portfolio and the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) are absent, but we are pleased to have the house leader here. Perhaps after consultation with the Minister without Portfolio, who has the responsibility of piloting this bill through, they might have a change of heart, having listened to the debate in the house and examined the report of the committee. Perhaps as reasonable men they might come to the conclusion that this is a reasonable proposition, a reasonable amendment, and that only an unreasonable government would reject it.

Mr. McCutcheon: Mr. Speaker, I should like—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I must remind the hon. member for Lambton-Kent that he has already spoken and has the right to speak only once. Is the house ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the amendment please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

Mr. McGrath: On division.

Amendment (Mr. Crouse) negatived.

• (12:50 p.m.)

Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre) moved:

That clause 13 be amended by adding the words "or in the immediate vicinity thereof" immediately following the word "Winnipeg".

He said: This is a terribly controversial clause, Mr. Speaker. I anticipate at least as many fireworks between the members from the east coast and those from the west coast who happen to sit on opposite sides of the house, because I know that both groups would covet the privilege of having the head office of this corporation in their own areas so they would get to know many of the fine fishermen who we are assured will be board members.

The decision was made that the head office of this corporation would be in the city of