

Report, that we ought to understand the meaning of this convention at Geneva....

The practice has been that civil servants do not want to appear before the Convention in public session so, with the consent of the Convention, I would make a motion now that we ask Mr. Howell to attend a private session of the Convention, tonight if possible, or tomorrow afternoon, or tomorrow night, whatever time is convenient. *[There followed a lengthy procedural debate. The Convention moved into committee of the*

whole, and the following motion was put and carried:

That Mr. Howell shall be invited to appear before the committee of the whole to give evidence touching on the Geneva conference, which bears upon the Economic Report now before the House for consideration, but that a motion to adopt the report shall be deferred until the committee knows when and if Mr. Howell is prepared to appear before the committee and give the required evidence]

Report of the Finance Committee: Economic Report Committee of the Whole

Mr. CranfordBeing a member of the Finance Committee, I had no intention of speaking on this Economic Report as I had given it every consideration before endorsing it. But the critics of this report have not even given the Committee the credit of admitting that some points of our report have been made by surmise or even conjecture. One member has shouted, "Let us be honest with ourselves — let us face the brutal facts". I cannot help but accept that challenge, and will not forget it while this Convention lasts, as it rings in my ears day and night; not because I am afraid of being charged with dishonesty, but because I wonder if the people who are listening in will take it in the same spirit of why it was said as I do, and that it was nothing more or less than playing politics; I am sure that the person who shouted such words would not attempt to accuse any member of the Finance Committee of being dishonest.

Again, there has been thrown at the Committee the condition of the fisherman in certain sections of the country. Certainly these critics do not mean to try to say that the members of the Finance Committee have no regard for the fishermen of this country, particularly myself who has been a fisherman all my lifetime and has met with many reverses, perhaps more than any other than in this country, as I have always tried to market my own products. How well I remember 18 years ago when I began shipping fresh salmon to the Boston market on commission basis, salmon I had caught and bought. The largest shipment for that season had reached Boston on a Friday afternoon, too late for that day's consumption. It was the only salmon that my agent had for that day, and would have fetched a fair price but for the

fact a Newfoundland firm had gone to a cold storage and got two carloads of frozen salmon and placed it on the market. Their salmon were bid in and placed back in cold storage and mine was sold at a loss, as the commission agent had no cold storage facilities. I lost more than the value of my whole season's catch. The commission agent could not understand the attitude of this experienced firm, to have salmon from the cold storage on the market on a Friday afternoon. Of course, I understood it thoroughly and so do all my listeners. This did not discourage me as I have been shipping salmon ever since.

So you see, fishermen are going to meet reverses through bad voyages and poor markets. But the point I want to make is this: the critics of the Economic Report who bring in the misfortune of our hard-working fishermen and throw it at the writers of the report, are only doing it for the purpose of political propaganda and playing upon the misfortunes of our fishermen for their own political ends. My sympathy goes out to those fishermen who have toiled all season with practically no returns; and only fishermen like myself who have had the same experience know the feeling of it. And I, as a fisherman, dare any person to say that I have not used all my energy and influence in the interest of the fishermen while at this Convention. Many members have heard me say that the only industry that should have any protection, particularly customs tariff protection, is the fishermen. Also I have said, "Never mind the businessmen, protect the fishermen and workers of this country to the extent of having them support their families, and businessmen are duds if they cannot do business".

Mr. Chairman If no other member rises and