

bait for fishing, which services we agree meet the real need in this country and which I am afraid are threatened. The actual position is that the federal government does not operate or maintain any bait depot in Canada, or supply bait. Wishing to be sure on this point, I sought and obtained this information from two of Canada's largest fishing provinces — namely British Columbia and Nova Scotia. And I am sure Mr. Smallwood will agree, what the federal government does for one province, it must do for all. If the federal government is not supplying bait for British Columbia and Nova Scotia, the federal government will not supply bait for the Province of Newfoundland. Both in Nova Scotia and British Columbia the fishermen have to buy their own bait from private operators, or catch and store it themselves. Those items mentioned in 1947-48, \$238,000. Now let us turn to item 9 — erection of new bait depots. This is not paid for by the federal government in any province, and cost in 1947-48, \$294,000. Item 11 — alteration and extension to existing bait depots, \$30,000. This also is not a federal charge. In other words, we have roughly \$562,000 excluded in this preposterous budget. Our fishermen are to do without free services. Can they afford to do without them? The answer is clear — no. The position therefore is this: we actually have expenses in these items alone totalling \$562,000, for which nothing has been provided in Mr. Smallwood's budget. So either we have a deficit of \$562,000 or we go without fish services. Such a thought to me is fantastic and unthinkable under any form of government this country might have. Mr. Chairman, if the record of figures, and the estimates of expenditure and revenue of the provincial budget, are as far astray as these are, then it follows the figures of other estimates of the same sort are just as unreliable.

Some months ago I made the statement that sooner or later our American friends would be obliged to come to this country for their fish supply. Many people, I know, did not believe this. But today, much sooner than suspected, my forecast has come true. Last Monday, two trawlers ... with a crew of 18 men each sailed from St. John's on their first fishing voyage from Newfoundland — under the flag of the United

Kingdom. Until a very short time ago, these splendid boats were sailing from the United States under the flag of Atlantic coast fishermen. But due to many circumstances with which I am not familiar, they are now here. And in my opinion, they are the forerunners of many more — if, and I say if, this country is permitted to run her own affairs. Now you might say, what do I mean by this? Well, in a nutshell it is this. Let us turn again to the federal government. In Nova Scotia and other provinces, a licence is required before trawlers can be used. To obtain these licences, application must be made to the federal Minister of Fisheries himself at Ottawa. Now the Minister of Fisheries in Ottawa is a very busy man and has many pressing problems for his attention. He may not have time to consider immediately a request from Newfoundland for a licence to operate trawlers and draggers, and unintentionally the opportunity to progress is gone or delayed indefinitely. Again, we all know New England interests are already coming to Newfoundland in preference to Canada. Now is it likely that the Minister of Fisheries at Ottawa is going to issue licences to Newfoundland to operate trawlers etc., if pressure is brought to bear by Nova Scotia to have the business placed there? Of course he won't, in my opinion. Nova Scotia is far more important politically than we are. So right away we run the risk of losing to one of our keenest competitors. Gentlemen, it is neither feasible or sensible for this country to have remote control. We have it now under Commission of Government. Are we to trade one remote control system for another? It has taken Nova Scotia a lifetime, practically, to obtain a licence to operate six trawlers and eight draggers, which is all that operates from there today. Dr. Douglas I. Cooper, Director of Fisheries for the Department of Industry for Nova Scotia asked if they were going to expand to the limit of exploitation and were they going to modernise to the limit, or were they going to perish? Gentlemen, Nova Scotia is now a case of progress or failure. There are three reasons for this situation. One, failure to recognise the fishery as a whole was changing from saltfish to fresh. Two, high taxation resulting from the war. Three, the McLean Commission decision condemning the use of modern