

## Newfoundland

**Mr. St. Laurent:** As I understand it, there is in Newfoundland a system for the conservation of bait under cold storage conditions, which is more effective than anything we have in the maritime provinces. The question arose, and I think it is covered in the statement of the questions answered.

**Mr. Coldwell:** I heard the minister yesterday but I did not quite get the explanation I am now seeking.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** In the statement of questions raised by the Newfoundland delegation, one of the questions was whether or not in taking over the bait service it would be used exclusively for the Newfoundland fishermen, or would be made available to the fishermen of the maritimes. The answer to that question is given on page 9 of the questions raised by the Newfoundland delegation and reads as follows:

The Canadian government will seek legislation or take such other steps as may be necessary to provide that the Newfoundland bait service will be taken over and operated without fundamental change by the Department of Fisheries. If, after the date of the union, changes are made for the benefit of Canada as a whole, the question of payment will be discussed between federal and provincial authorities.

This was going to be a federal service. If it was a federal service which had been provided out of moneys of Newfoundland, and if it was going to become a federal service for the benefit of the whole of Canada they should get some compensation for what they had invested in it. It was not possible to reach any final conclusion in that regard, but they were told that it would be the policy of this government to ask parliament to provide by legislation or otherwise, if under existing legislation it could be done, to continue to operate the bait service without any fundamental change, and that if in operating it we found that it could be of use to other Canadians then the question of a fair compensation to Newfoundland would be discussed.

**Mr. Coldwell:** Yes, that is the interpretation I wanted to get. It is not intended that this would be charged back to the province or provinces if it is extended to the various provinces. It is the other way around.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** It is the other way around. If we use for the benefit of the other provinces something that they operate, then the question will arise as to whether we should not make some compensation to them because of the benefit that the other provinces will get.

**Mr. Coldwell:** That is the point I wanted to clear up.

**Mr. Claxton:** May I supplement that from the remarks which the Minister of Fisheries

[Mr. Coldwell.]

made yesterday and which appear on page 399 of *Hansard*. The minister said:

There is in Newfoundland a bait-freezing service which I think is a better one than we have in Canada. We shall have to do something to improve ours so that it will be equal to Newfoundland's.

That is the point the hon. member had in mind.

**Mr. Coldwell:** That is the point.

**Mr. MacNicol:** May I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that you call each paragraph of section 31. I wanted to ask a few questions under some of these paragraphs.

Section 31 (a) agreed to.

On section 31 (b) and (c).

**Mr. MacNicol:** How does paragraph (b) of section 31 connect with paragraph (c) of section 33? If we pass paragraph (b) of section 31 as it is, will we then not have to do something with paragraph (c) of section 33?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Section 33, paragraph (c) reads:

The following public works and property of Newfoundland shall become the property of Canada when the service concerned is taken over by Canada, . . .

If the Newfoundland hotel is not taken over by Canada it will never become the property of Canada.

**Mr. Knight:** In section 31, paragraph (b), the Newfoundland hotel is the only item in which the arrangement is not definite. Will the minister explain the limitation of time?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** We do not propose to make any payment whatsoever for it. The government of Newfoundland will say whether they want to charge us with the burden of operating it or whether they think it is worth something and prefer to get it.

**Mr. Knowles:** Where is it?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** In St. John's. The information we had from the Canadian National Railways was that they would prefer not to have it, so that we were not willing to make any payment for it. But if the people of Newfoundland felt that they wanted us to have the responsibility of operating it as a railway hotel we would not refuse to accept it.

**Mr. MacNicol:** Paragraph (c) of section 31 refers to postal and publicly-owned telecommunication services. Are these services—the telephone, telegraphs and postal services—in the one building everywhere throughout the island?