

end — did they control up to the end of 1946?

Mr. Crosbie The 1946 catch was marketed.

Mr. Smallwood Then that is the end of the Combined Food Board as far as Newfoundland is concerned; we are on our own from this year on?

Mr. Job It looks like it.

Mr. Smallwood What we will get is what we can get from now on. There is nobody to control it.

Mr. Newell I do not know what the point of the discussion is at the moment. It does seem to me that the action of the Fisheries Board or the government in guaranteeing a certain price would tend to set a minimum price to the fishermen, where if a guarantee is not made, it might well be less. That is what I gather from this discussion.

Mr. Hollett It might be more.

Mr. Vardy It has been proven it could be more. Take the case of herring — we had an experience last year, when we could have gotten \$2 a barrel more for the herring had it not been for the action of the Board.

The report is a well-worded document; long enough to digest and plain enough for the average man to understand. Mr. Hollett touched on an important matter just now, that there should be more small boats, 15-25 ton boats. I am in accord with that. I am disappointed as a member of the Public Health and Welfare Committee over the little consideration given through the civil re-establishment department to the fishermen. We all know that the fishermen received amounts varying from \$100 to the top man getting \$700. In view of the fact that the present government is handing out in the vicinity of over \$8 million to rehabilitate the men from World War II, under various headings such as back pay, gratuities, land settlement, university courses and various other brackets, in a country where the fishery is still the leading industry, it has received by far the lesser amount. I cannot find words strong enough to condemn those responsible for creating such a scheme. I am not satisfied that this country has spent or is spending sufficient to modernise the fisheries. We know there is plenty of room for more cold storages. I would like to know from Mr. Job whether these 15 quick-freezing plants are owned by private companies or if the government has any interest in them?

Mr. Job As far as I know, it is entirely private enterprise. I do not think the government had any

interest as shareholders. They did make certain advances at one time, comparatively small amounts. In that connection, Mr. P.H. Dunn introduced the act whereby loans could be made, but very little advantage was taken of it. The loans were not wanted. I think that is one of the sad features about it — that \$4 million was voted for that purpose and none was used. It was earmarked for loans and people did not want loans.

Mr. Smallwood They would rather sell the shares?

Mr. Job They did sell shares and they put in their own money. The end of it was that the loans were not required. At least part of the trade thought it should be earmarked for certain things like the development of cold storage. It was simply cancelled. It was reduced to something like \$500,000 and I think it is still available. The trouble is, under the act, the government takes no risk. The government simply says, "We will vote \$4 million, anyone who wants a loan may get it under certain terms — safe terms to the government." The government should take part of the risk. I think there is a great deal to be said for the reason they give, they want to safeguard the public funds and not make loans without proper security, but it does not help the trade.

Mr. Smallwood How would bank credit and government credit compare as to the easiness of getting loans and time of repayment?

Mr. Job About the same, I think. We could not see any advantage. The interest was perhaps a little lower in the case of the government. There was no term given. They were extremely particular about the matter of titles. There was so much exactitude that the people would not be bothered; they would rather go to the bank and get a loan; if their credit was good, they could get it. If you have to mortgage your plant, you do not like doing it.

Mr. Vardy It does not make good reading when we have the figure of \$1.8 million to be spent on 300 men for land settlement, and then look at the figures given here for 1938-1939 of the amount of money earned by the fishermen. We are heading in the wrong direction. I do not think the people responsible for this knew anything about the fishery other than the experience gained in catching a few salmon on the rivers.

I wonder if the Committee paid sufficient attention to the smoked fish business. We know