

Mr. Crosbie As I have it here, sir, Mr. St. Laurent stated that it could be provided in terms of union, that the fishery legislation in force in Newfoundland remain in force.

Mr. Smallwood Well, hasn't that been provided?

Mr. Crosbie Not necessarily and specifically, no.

Mr. Smallwood Well it's not only that law, but all laws stay as they are until altered. And as to altering them, we have the statement there that the fisheries trade can be reassured, the Fishery Board and the fishery regulations will not be abolished. Clear as daylight.... Maybe for Mr. Crosbie's benefit, Mr. Ashbourne wouldn't mind reading the whole minute, it's a minute of a plenary session.

Mr. Ashbourne "Mr. St. Laurent stated that it could be provided in the terms of union that fisheries legislation presently enforced in Newfoundland would remain in force until amended or repealed by the appropriate legislative authorities. The federal government would not be disposed to interfere with the system presently in effect in Newfoundland unless it proposed to introduce legislation which would represent an improvement over present regulation; and therefore would not be likely to repeal Newfoundland legislation in order to remove a regulatory system which has proven beneficial. The Newfoundland fishing industry might reasonably be informed that it need anticipate nothing prejudicial in this respect as a result of union with Canada."

Now, sir, I would like to read certain excerpts from ... the Fisheries Prices Support Act, 1944....

There shall be under the direction of the Minister a Fisheries Prices Support Board consisting of not more than five members....

The powers of the Board: (a) for the purpose of this act the Board shall, subject to and in accordance with the regulations of the Governor in Council, have authority to prescribe from time to time ... prices at which the Board may purchase fisheries products; (b) to purchase directly or by means of agents at such prices any fishery product, if such product on inspection meets standards as to the grade and policy prescribed....; (c) pay to the producer of the fisheries product directly, or through such agents as the board may

determine the difference between the price prescribed by the Board ... and the average as determined by the Board ...¹ store, ship, transport or export directly or by means of agents any fisheries product; (f) to enter into contracts, or appoint agents to do anything authorised under this act; (g) to purchase at market or at contract prices and export any fisheries product under any contract or agreement between His Majesty in right Canada and any other government or agency thereof...; (h) to purchase at the request of any department of the Government of Canada any fisheries product required by such department; (i) to appoint commodity boards or other agents to undertake the purchase and the disposition of fisheries products provided that any boards appointed under this paragraph shall include representatives of the primary producers; (j) to appoint a committee or committees...

Mr. Smallwood I wonder if Mr. Ashbourne would permit me just for a moment. Does Mr. Ashbourne, and do the other members of the delegation, recall how it was pointed out that under that very subsection that Mr. Ashbourne has just read, where the Fish Prices Support Board of Canada may set up commodity boards, that the Newfoundland Fisheries Board might well be a commodity board of the Fish Prices Support board?

Mr. Cashin If it is changed to a fish prices commodity board, it won't be allowed to function like it does now.

Mr. Smallwood Function, actually function as now within the Fish Prices Support Board.

Mr. Ashbourne Yes, Mr. Chairman, I maintain that that is the idea.

Mr. Smallwood The Fish Prices Support Board is federal and it may appoint other boards throughout Canada. In the case of Newfoundland, we already have a board, the Fisheries Board could be the commodity board for Newfoundland under the Fish Prices Support Board of Canada.

Mr. Ashbourne Mr. Chairman, as far as I can gather in Canada they are most favourably impressed by what the Newfoundland Fisheries Board has accomplished. And as has already been related by Mr. Crosbie, they sent a delega-

¹Gap in the recording.