

Atlantic coast species which would guarantee fishermen catching cod, ocean perch, or flounder a minimum price for 1968 catch. *Greenland* is faced with adversity in virtually every area of her fishing industry; in *Sweden* fishermen's earnings have declined 30 percent in 2 years; in *France* fishermen's strikes moved government to establish minimum import prices for several fish species; and in West Germany financial deterioration of fishing industry has prompted coastal provinces to request formal government support.

When countries are having difficulties with domestic fishing industry, problems requiring international attention are relegated to secondary consideration. Subsidies are usually provided to aid fisheries but subsidies do not solve problems. They can help an industry over short-term difficulties but unless some significant change is made within industry, the problem remains to be faced again in the future. Moreover, talk of market sharing, minimum price supports, restrictions on imports, etc. strike a responsive chord to fishermen in other nations. It is unlikely that increased government supports to fisheries will go unnoticed or unchallenged by fishing industries in other countries.

Source: Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Division of International Office, Branch of Foreign Fisheries.

Mr. KEITH. Mr. Howard Nickerson, of New Bedford.

STATEMENT OF HOWARD W. NICKERSON, CHAIRMAN-COORDINATOR, MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE GROUND FISH INDUSTRY

Mr. NICKERSON. Thank you, Congressman Keith.

Mr. BURKE. You may proceed, Mr. Nickerson.

Mr. NICKERSON. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am Howard W. Nickerson, executive director of the Seafood Dealers Association of New Bedford, Mass.

Today I am representing 31 firms and associations, including one fishermen's union and one seafood workers' union in the city of New Bedford.

Massachusetts has a considerable stake in the outcome of this hearing. I requested 20 minutes for my presentation, and have been allocated 5. I can, therefore, not do justice to the brief which I have presented on behalf of the Massachusetts Committee for the Preservation of the Groundfish Industry.

I would like to have the opportunity to use this 5 minutes in an oral summation, and have the full brief inserted in the hearings for the record.

Mr. BURKE. We will see that it is included.

Mr. NICKERSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have submitted the 75 copies of the written brief prior to being here today. You have it on hand.

I believe that you will find this brief factual, interesting, and statistically important to aid you in making a decision at the close of the hearings that will be in the best interest of the United States and all its people.

I would hope that you would find the time to read the brief that I have prepared, because a great deal of time, research, and financial responsibility have gone into the development of the brief and my visit to Washington, D.C., to have the privilege of speaking before your committee for 5 minutes.

I had to arrive Sunday to make sure that I would be here for today's hearings, and as a representative of Massachusetts, a State that ranks fifth in total volume of fish caught, third in dollar valuation, and has