

Acad. of Sciences Endorses Fish Protein Concentrate

WASHINGTON—Senator E.L. (Bob) Bartlett has publicized statements by the National Academy of Sciences endorsing fish protein concentrate as a food supplement and calling for construction of an experimental plant to manufacture the concentrate.

At the end of the last session of Congress, Senator Bartlett and Senator Warren G. Magnuson introduced a bill authorizing construction of

five experimental plants.

Senator Bartlett has for many years championed fish protein concentrate as a major weapon in the war against world hunger.

Tests have shown that fish is an extremely cheap source of high quality protein. Dietary experts have stated that a lack of protein is a major cause of malnutrition throughout the world.

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President Johnson, in his recent message to Congress on Food for Freedom, made special mention of the need to develop cheap sources of protein and singled out research being done on fish protein concentrate.

In a statement laid before the Senate, Bartlett said the statements issued by the National Academy made "it quite clear that the research work done in recent years to develop a wholesome fish protein concentrate has been enormously successful."

The recommendation that an

experimental plant, be built was made in a resolution approved by the Academy's Food and Nutrition Board.

The Academy statement said that the fish protein concentrate developed by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries was "wholesome, highly nutritious, stable, safe and capable of economic production and marketing."

Senator Bartlett said he would push for hearings on the bill to authorize construction of experimental plants as soon as the concentrate was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

He told the Senate that the Academy announcements should help the FDA reach a favorable decision on the concentrate. The FDA decision is expected to be announced within the next several months.

In a statement released by his office, Senator Bartlett said that while red and silver hake had been used in the research project, he had been assured that Alaska pollack, of the same fish family, could be used in the process.

Bartlett pointed out that in Alaska waters there was a potential annual harvest of one billion pounds of pollack, which today was untouched by U.S. Fisheries.

"Development of fish protein concentrate on a mass-production basis would be a great breakthrough in the war to eliminate malnutrition. It would also represent a major new market for the fish industry." Sen. Bartlett said.