

Inquiries of the Ministry

hon. members that they read the four deleted pages of Admiral Landymore's testimony in order to fully understand the matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

RESEARCH**REQUEST FOR INCREASED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the concern of people engaged in the field of medical and scientific research over the government's cut-back in research grants, I wonder whether the Prime Minister, either today or soon, can make a statement to the house as to whether there has been any modification of the cut-back program indicated by the Minister of Finance on September 8?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will recall—indeed, I know he will because he reminded me of it at lunchtime—that I wrote him on this matter on October 12, at which time I pointed out that the grants for medical research will be increased, not reduced, in the forthcoming year, and will be increased, I think, appreciably. The effect of the policy of reducing government expenditure which has been announced will simply mean that the increase will be somewhat less than the government would otherwise have wanted. As I told my hon. friend at the time, we hope to recapture the additional increases before long.

Mr. Knowles: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the Prime Minister some time soon make a more precise statement to the house as to what amounts are involved? Surely he appreciates that these vague generalities are encouraging but we should like something definite.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, vague generalities which often occur on orders of the day are made more definite when the estimates are under consideration.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**MARITIME PROVINCES—EFFECT OF BASE CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime

Minister. In view of the gravity of the situation relating to the base consolidation study at present under way by the Minister of National Defence, on behalf of all Progressive Conservative members from Nova Scotia I would ask the Prime Minister whether he would as quickly as possible convene a meeting with the premiers of the maritime provinces so they might be made fully aware of the possible consequences to the economy of the maritime provinces that this base consolidation program will have.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Defence has already dealt with this matter.

Mr. Coates: A supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the economy of the maritimes is dependent to a degree at least on the \$300 million a year from the defence bases situated there, surely the Prime Minister should give consideration to meeting the premiers of the provinces in order to make them aware of just what will happen—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now stating an argument.

FISHERIES**INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING GEOGRAPHICAL CO-ORDINATES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the light of recent discussions has the minister any report to give the house with regard to the negotiations which are proceeding to establish a 12-mile limit, and would he report on the progress that has been made in establishing geographical coordinates from which base lines will be drawn defining our territorial seas and our fishing zones?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, with a view to enabling the government to establish straight base lines as soon as possible we had negotiations on Monday. As I indicated to my hon. friend on that day, the negotiating team from the United States was to forward a counter proposal, which we are now considering.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): May I ask a supplementary question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Apart from the