

Mr. MACLEAN: Perhaps Mr. Clark could say a word in that regard.

I might say that the annual meeting of ICNAF was held in Halifax in June. There are 12 countries now belonging to the international commission for the northwest Atlantic fisheries. The last two countries to join this commission were West Germany and Russia.

Perhaps Mr. Clark is able to give you some specific information in regard to the workings of this commission.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, before that answer is given I would like to ask a question in regard to this conference on territorial waters.

Am I right that it was at this conference that Canada voted with Russia against Britain, France and the United States?

Mr. MACLEAN: I think that possibly happened under a particular set of circumstances.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Before that answer is given I have a question directly related to territorial waters.

We all know that Iceland has taken the position that as of September 1, their territorial waters will be extended to 12 miles. Iceland has been joined in this action by the Faroes islands which are under Danish control. A few days ago Great Britain, Norway and four other countries joined in protest against this action by Iceland. Could the minister tell us if any action has been taken by Canada in this regard?

Mr. MACLEAN: Actually, Mr. Chairman, this is a matter which should be discussed more correctly in the estimates of the Department of External Affairs. I have no specific knowledge of any action that has been taken by Canada. I have seen releases in the press recently to the effect that a number of companies do not intend to recognize this unilateral extension of territorial waters which Iceland has said it will do September 1. I think this is rather a hypothetical question at the moment.

Mr. BROWNE (*Vancouver-Kingsway*): In regard to this question of territorial waters, how does it relate to the question of international law on the subject? I would refer you to the stand that the United Kingdom, France and Norway took in 1951, which was known as the Anglo-Norwegian case, in regard to protecting their fisheries.

I also refer to the Canadian declaration in 1908 that certain waters on the Pacific coast, such as the Hecate strait, which would be deemed to be territorial waters for conservation of fish.

In 1945 the United States government made a presidential declaration in regard to the conservation and protection of fisheries in the oceans contiguous to the United States.

All these declarations would seem to indicate, at least to me, that there is no established international law in this regard, by international agreement between the two nations, or by a bilateral agreement between the United States and Canada.

I think some of these things should be worked out. Are there any negotiations going on between Canada and the United States in regard to the Pacific coast, at least?

Mr. MACLEAN: This is, as I said before, quite an involved question. It is conceivable that the two countries could make a bilateral agreement with regard to the conservation of fishing, by drawing up some agreement of this sort. This is being done by one of these international commissions for specific purposes.

As far as territorial waters, as such, are concerned, you cannot enforce a law unless it has general acceptance. You can make declarations until you are blue in the face but you will get nowhere with them unless other countries