

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[English]

**FISHERIES****EFFECT OF U.S. CLAIM TO OWNERSHIP  
OF OCEAN FLOOR**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister of external affairs, but in his absence I will direct it to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the proposed legislation in the United States which will claim ownership by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of the ocean floor extending 100 miles from land, including part of the lucrative fishing grounds of Georges Bank, what representations, if any, has the minister made to the United States authorities with regard to the effect that passage of this legislation would have upon Canadian fishermen?

**Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, since the proposed passage of this legislation has not been brought to my attention at this stage, I will look into the question and find out exactly what has been done in this regard.

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Minister of Fisheries whether any of the territory referred to in the question of the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg lies within the base lines that we have been negotiating?

**Mr. Robichaud:** Not to my knowledge.

**TRANSPORT****FREEZE ON APPLICATIONS FOR RAIL  
LINE ABANDONMENT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. R. Ballard (Calgary South):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Would the minister consider putting a freeze on applications for rail line abandonments while the new Railway Act is before the transportation committee?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** There is such a freeze, Mr. Speaker; there is no need to put on another one.

**WOMEN****REFERENCE TO REQUEST FOR ROYAL  
COMMISSION ON STATUS**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State.

[Mr. Grégoire.]

Has the hon. lady been successful in her attempt to convince the government that a royal commission on the status of women should be set up, as proposed by the delegation for the equality of women in Canada?

**Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State):** Not entirely successful as yet, Mr. Speaker, but I would commend to my hon. friend the slogan used by an American women's magazine, which exhorts one never to underestimate the power of a woman.

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING  
CORPORATION****PROGRAM "QUENTIN DURGENS, M.P."—  
REQUEST FOR SCRIPT**

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Having faith in the power of women, I ask the Secretary of State whether she would get in touch with the C.B.C. and secure from them a copy of the words used on the first performance of "Quentin Durgens, M.P.". I asked for that script and was told that parliament could not have it because it was copyrighted—an insufficient and improper answer. I ask the Secretary of State whether she would secure that. While she is at it, would she also obtain from the same body the remarks and statements made by the Minister of Finance on December 11 and December 12 on C.B.C. television.

**Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know why this material should not be available to the right hon. gentleman. I shall certainly ascertain the position, and obtain it.

**UNITED NATIONS****SOUTH AFRICA—ABSTENTION BY CANADA ON  
APARTHEID VOTE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Russell H. MacEwan (Pictou):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address my question to the Prime Minister. Perhaps I could address it to his parliamentary secretary, who could take it as notice. I ask why yesterday in the United Nations Canada abstained when the vote was taken condemning apartheid policies in South Africa. How many countries actually opposed this resolution?

**Mr. John Matheson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister):** I shall take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker.