

Inquiries of the Ministry

My suggestion, Mr. Speaker, is that the judge would be able to decide whether the hearings should be in camera or in public.

Mr. Nielsen: As a supplementary question, the Minister has not answered the last part of my question as to whether the report, when presented to the Governor in Council, will be tabled. May I suggest to him that it is completely unsatisfactory to leave it to the discretion of the judge—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nielsen:—whether there should be—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nielsen:—a public inquiry.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

FISHERIES

ESTABLISHMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL
CO-ORDINATES RESPECTING
BASE LINES

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. Would the Minister take the house and Canadian fishermen into his confidence and tell us when his department or the government plans to name the geographical coordinates so that base lines can be drawn which will establish the 12-mile limit as set out in the legislation?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend knows, the government has already introduced this legislation, which has already been accepted by the house, to establish a 12-mile fishing zone limit based on the straight base-line system. Before these straight base lines can be determined agreement has to be reached between Canada and several other countries. These negotiations have not yet been completed but just as quickly as these difficult negotiations have been completed I will be in a position to give a more definitive answer.

Mr. Richard Cashin (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question. Would the Minister tell the house whether or not the government might entertain other suggestions regarding ways and means to cope with this situation, particularly as it affects inshore fishermen, pending the eventual outcome of the negotiations to which he made reference?

[Mr. Cardin.]

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The government would be very glad to look into any suggestions which any hon. member wishes to make, and in view of the character of the negotiations the hon. gentleman will be able to determine how these representations should be put forward.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): A supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. May I ask the minister how he reconciles the statement that the drawing of straight base lines will depend upon negotiations with what he told the marine and fisheries committee in 1964?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe there is any problem of reconciliation.

[Translation]

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE SUBSTANTIAL
INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, there is a question I should like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) concerning an item in the speech from the throne.

I feel this is an important matter. I should like to ask the minister whether the government intends to amend the Family Allowances Act within the next three months and to raise the rates substantially.

[English]

OLD AGE SECURITY

INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE TO \$100 MONTHLY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Because of the serious situation with regard to the continuing rise in the cost of living and because no mention was made of this in the Speech from the Throne, can the Prime Minister say if and when he intends to alleviate the critical situation by increasing old age security payments to \$100 a month?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I hope to deal with some of these matters tomorrow.

IMMIGRATION

INQUIRY AS TO PRODUCTION OF
WHITE PAPER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Perhaps in doing so I might take a