

Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries signed in Washington on February 8, 1949, and ratified on July 3, 1950, following approval by parliament on joint resolution of the two houses.

Honourable senators can feel very proud of Canada's position as a world leader in the matter of conserving and preserving off-shore fisheries. Canada is now a member of a series of international fisheries conventions, four of which are the Halibut Convention of 1923, the Fur Seal Convention between the United States and Canada, the International Pacific Sockeye Salmon Convention, and the North Pacific Fisheries Convention which was signed last year between Canada, Japan and the United States.

One might ask why there has been such a delay in giving the government authority to carry out the obligations assumed by Canada under the International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, which was ratified four years ago. There is a very simple explanation for the delay. Some countries which signed the agreement have not had nearly as much experience in international fisheries matters as Canada, and it has taken all this time for them to become acquainted with the regulations embodied in the agreement and to be assured that their interests will be protected.

The northwest Atlantic is the area to which this convention applies, and the principal fishery in this area is on the Grand Banks, off Newfoundland. It should be pointed out that although the Grand Banks have been fished off since Sir John Cabot went there, in 1497, some 456 years ago, they still are one of the world's greatest fishing grounds. However, this international agreement has been entered into because intensive fishing has depleted certain species of fish on the Grand Banks.

There are ten contracting nations to this convention: Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The convention has set up an administrative organization under the chairmanship of Dr. Stewart Bates, Canada's very able Deputy Minister of Fisheries. Dr. Bates was honoured this year by being made the first chairman also of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission. I think it is fair to say that it was due to the generous offer of the Government of Nova Scotia and the Governors of Dalhousie University, that the permanent headquarters of the Northwest Atlantic Commission is to be located on the university campus at Halifax. This means that the headquarters of three international fisheries commissions will

be located in Canada: the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries at Halifax, the International Pacific Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Commission at New Westminster, and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission at the University of British Columbia. The latter headquarters have so far been established on only a temporary basis.

The International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries has drafted regulations to enforce conservation measures, and the bill before us requests the legal power to enforce these regulations on Canadian fishermen.

Honourable senators, that in brief is an explanation of the bill before the house.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: With leave, next sitting.

SALARIES BILL

ORDER FOR SECOND READING STANDS

On the Order:

Second reading of Bill 172, intituled: "An Act to amend the Salaries Act"—Hon. Mr. Macdonald.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Honourable senators, I am informed that copies of this bill have just arrived in this house and have not yet been circulated.

I have in mind also that the Banking and Commerce committee is in session at the present time, considering an Act respecting the Canadian Forces and also an Act to amend the Patent Act. I believe certain honourable senators would like to attend the meeting.

I move, therefore, that this order stand.

Hon. Mr. Reid: Are the bills being discussed by the Banking and Commerce meeting now? I understand that the committee is to meet when the Senate rises.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: I believe the honourable senator from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid) is right. Perhaps the chairman of the committee is waiting for a quorum.

The order stands.

DIVORCE PETITIONS

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CONCURRED IN

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the reports of the Standing Committee on Divorce Nos. 294 to 305, dealing with petitions for divorce.