

FISHERIES

MARITIME PROVINCES—REQUEST FOR EARLIER
OPENING OF LOBSTER SEASON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Since the lobster fishermen of district 7B in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island lost the first three weeks of the 1961 fishing season because of abnormal ice conditions, would the minister consider advancing the opening date for the district concerned for this year from May 1 to April 24 or April 25, in order to provide these fishermen with an opportunity to resume their fishing operations at an earlier date?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, my department has considered this possibility. As the hon. member will recall, although lobster fishing in district 7B opened late last year it also continued a few days later than normal, with the result that the average fisherman had a normal year. There were a few areas which were exceptions to this rule. We have considered the possibility the hon. member has suggested, but have found that it would not be practical because full advantage could not be taken of such an early opening in all districts and this would unfairly spread the advantage, if any, which might accrue from an early opening.

It is expected, therefore, that the season in district 7B will open on May 1, which is the normal time.

SEALING—ACTION TO PROTECT CANADIAN
HUNTERS ON EAST COAST

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice or, in his absence, to his parliamentary secretary. Would the minister please advise if he is in a position to report on the complaints received by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from Captain Moss, of the sealing ship *North Star*, that his men had been attacked by pirates who took rifles from his men and stole their seal pelts? Will he comment also on an article in this morning's *Globe and Mail* to the effect that Captain James Gillette of the *Arctic Sealer* reported that five helicopters spent three days last week taking pelts belonging to his ship?

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice): I am not sure of these allegations, but this matter is

Inquiries of the Ministry

under active consideration by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. When the investigation has made sufficient progress I shall be pleased to see that a report is given to the house.

Mr. J. A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Fisheries be prepared to comment on the hon. member's question?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): I could add, in reply, that the officers of my department have also gone by helicopter to the area from which these allegations arose to investigate the possibility of cancelling licences for sealing operations, if such a course should be advisable.

INQUIRY FOR RETURN

BOOKS BANNED ENTRY INTO CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. On February 7, as recorded at page 631 of *Hansard*, my question No. 124 concerning books banned or prohibited entry into Canada by the Department of National Revenue was passed as an order for return. I know the minister has been checking over this list for me, but time is growing short. Is the minister now in a position to comply with the order of the house?

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): I will check on this order and advise the house in a short time.

(Translation):

BRIDGES

MONTREAL—INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSIONS WITH
CIVIC REPRESENTATIVES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gerard Loiselle (St. Ann): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport. Can he tell the house if the meeting between the representatives of his department and those of the provincial government of Quebec and the city of Montreal in regard to the abolition of tolls on bridges was held yesterday, and if so what were the results of these talks?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Chambly-Rouville (Mr. Johnson) advised me of his intention to ask such a question. I want to tell him and also the hon. member for St. Ann that following a conversation between the premier of the province of Quebec, Mr. Lesage, and myself, it was agreed that the meeting which was to be held yesterday be postponed to Wednesday afternoon in Ottawa.