

and interested residents of Manitoba to meet with us, I think next week, to discuss the matter.

FISHERIES

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NORTH PACIFIC TREATY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Arthur Laing (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Fisheries, of which I have just now given him notice. I would ask if he would agree to undertake to make a statement to the house in the next few days regarding the position of the north Pacific international fisheries treaty and the amendments which are proposed thereto?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, this will depend upon the sequence of future events. I will certainly be making a statement in this regard on the estimates of my department, but it is possible that I might make a statement before that depending on circumstances.

INQUIRY AS TO PROTECTION OF WEST COAST FISHERIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack Davis (Coast-Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Fisheries. During the recent discussions on Canadian-Japanese trade in Tokyo was any consideration given to the urgent need to protect the halibut and herring fisheries on the west coast of British Columbia?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, a useful discussion was had between myself and my colleagues and our opposite numbers in the Japanese government in Tokyo, as has already been reported by the Minister of Justice. The herring and halibut fisheries of the Pacific coast of North America are under the north Pacific international fisheries convention, and that convention has been in existence now for almost ten years. There has been no change in that convention. Certain recommendations which were made recently by the international north Pacific fisheries commission are in conformity with the terms of the treaty.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

INQUIRY AS TO HEALTH PROTECTION IN NORTHERN AREAS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas R. Berger (Vancouver-Burrard): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the minister of northern affairs. In view of recent

Inquiries of the Ministry

disclosures that the level of strontium 90 and cesium 132 has reached dangerous proportions in parts of northern Canada, what steps has the government taken to protect the health of Canada's Eskimo population and of other citizens inhabiting the area?

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, the department has taken the problem under consideration. We have already had discussions with the Department of National Health and Welfare on this matter. There is no positive information available other than reports from newspapers, and I can assure the hon. member that we are trying to get the actual facts.

LIEFCORT—INQUIRY AS TO PROHIBITION OF MANUFACTURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether, in view of further reports of the serious side effects of the drug liefcort, the minister has requested Dr. Liefmann to stop manufacturing this drug.

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I have noticed one or two very recent reports about this matter, and we are looking into the subject.

INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister be in a position to tell us whether it is true that General Norstad has been nominated the chief defence adviser of the Canadian Liberal party—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think that one requires any comment.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question relating to the comments reported in the press to have been made by the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate concerning the proceedings in this house immediately after 4.55 p.m. on December 19. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he has under consideration any explanation or apology to those "inexperienced M.P.'s" whom the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate asserts he so cleverly tricked at that time.