

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

and tabulation, and several thousand others are being investigated from the point of view of whether a proper return has been made.

The hon. member may understand that there is some difficulty about the existence or non-existence of corporations, which on the books could apparently be making a return. One of the difficulties involved is that of determining the ultimate ownership of the shares of a corporation. At the moment, Mr. Speaker, some 15,000 corporation returns are being investigated from this point of view. There is also the difficulty not only of pursuing the ownership of the shares and, in some cases, finding it in the hands of the corporation, but of pursuing the ownership of the said shares through the ownership of the corporation.

● (10:10 p.m.)

So, this has been a long process. I am happy to say that the dominion statistician who is responsible in this regard is taking active measures to improve reporting procedures and bring them up to date. The hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg) and other hon. members will be pleased to know that the report for the 1964 corporate returns is now in the printing stage. The report for 1965 should be available about the end of the year and it is hoped that the 1966 report will be available in the spring.

FISHERIES—ESTABLISHMENT BY RUSSIA OF RIGHTS OFF PACIFIC COAST

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, in 1964 parliament passed the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act under which authority was given, through the governor in council, for the establishment of what the act calls geographic co-ordinates between which straight base lines would be drawn, and from which would be measured the three mile territorial zone and the additional nine mile fishing zone. When the bill was passing through parliament, as well as when it was in the other place and before various committees, the then secretary of state for external affairs and the then minister of fisheries both promised faithfully that those straight base lines would be drawn by the end of the year, that is, by the end of 1964.

Since then persistent questions have been asked in the house about the progress toward drawing those straight base lines, and the almost standard answer received from government for its failure in its commitment to put straight base lines into effect, the almost universal answer on all occasions, has been

that this subject matter, in so far as the Pacific coast is concerned—and I am concerned about the Pacific coast—has been under negotiation with the United States, the only other country involved in the situation.

As time goes on it seems passing strange that Canada should be so concerned about sovereignty, when it is willing to negotiate with a foreign country the matter of determining the location of straight base lines which Canada, under laws passed by this parliament, has the authority to draw.

I have been given to understand that under international law a country can claim to have an historic fishery in a certain area or body of water if that country's vessels have been fishing there for a period of five years.

Pretty regularly since 1964, that is since four years ago, fishing vessels of the Soviet Union, as well as other ships of various sizes, have been sighted off our Pacific coast. Some of them, on occasion, have come into the area which would have been considered our own waters, if the government had moved to establish straight base lines, as it promised. Earlier this year a fishing ship—it was a much larger vessel than ones we are accustomed to seeing—from a foreign country actually tied up at the community of Massett in the Queen Charlotte islands. The men from it went out on the town, spent time at the Legion and had a pretty gay old time. Of course the personnel in what is loosely referred to as the coast guard, the fishery officer and the local R.C.M.P. officer were in a complete flap over the situation. The point is that here we see a complete disregard on the part of some for what we normally consider our own waters.

Unless we move swiftly, and there is not much time left, Japan, and the Soviet union in particular, will be in a position to claim an historic fishing right within the area that the Liberal government in 1964 promised would be enclosed as Canadian waters.

I know the present minister has said on more than one occasion that this matter is under review and that there is a possibility the government will move away from the commitment it made in 1964, namely, to draw the straight base lines on the Pacific coast in such a way as to include the waters of Queen Charlotte sound, Hecate strait and the Dixon entrance. This is the point at issue in the discussions which have taken place with the United States. They do not want us to do that. If the minister backs away from the commitment made to the fishermen and the Canadian people in 1964, and these base lines are