

*Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones*

**Mr. MacLean (Queens):** From the present base line—I would predict that, unless we can arrive at unanimity in the negotiations, the legislation will be tested in the courts. I believe we would be on much sounder ground as far as international law is concerned if we had proclaimed 12 miles of territorial sea instead of three miles of territorial sea and nine miles of exclusive fishing zone. There is the difficulty there, of course, of which I am fully aware, that we would be running head on into the objections of our most important friends on this point, and that is not a practical posture to take in the matter.

There is another important point I want to reiterate. A great deal of attention has been paid to this legislation and to this whole concept, and it has always been referred to as the exclusive 12 mile fishing zone, the 12 mile limit. The motion has grown up that the exclusive fishing zone is a more important aspect of the matter than the declaration that these bodies of water are to be national waters. I believe that the most important thing is the clear establishment that these large areas, like the gulf of St. Lawrence, are national waters. I believe that the second most important thing as far as our fishing industry is concerned is to establish straight base lines. I believe that the third most important thing is the width of the exclusive fishing zone. However, if we achieve the first two, much of what is required will be achieved by that fact alone and the actual width of the exclusive fishing zone will not be of such great importance. It will be of very great importance in some areas, however, especially so far as our inshore fishermen are concerned because then their fixed gear will not be torn up and destroyed by foreign trawlers, and so on.

It will also have fairly important conservation benefits as far as some species of fish are concerned, such as lobster, shellfish and other estuarial fish. However, as far as the problem of the conservation of the living resources of the whole ocean is concerned, the width of the exclusive fishing zone has very little effect. It has some effect but it is only a very small percentage compared to the whole and it will not begin to solve the great problems that face us in this modern world with regard to arriving at agreed upon methods whereby we can conserve the living resources of the sea for the good of all mankind and arrive at a method by which they can be exploited fairly by the countries concerned.

As far as this legislation is concerned, it will be of no benefit in preserving our salmon

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

resources on the west coast. It will have virtually no effect in that regard because this species of fish migrates for hundreds of miles out into the ocean and can be caught on the high seas, regardless of how wide we make our exclusive fishing zone, by the nationals of other countries, unless we can continue to broaden the areas of treaties for the purpose of conserving intelligently these important fishing resources.

I see that it is five o'clock, Mr. Speaker. I am just about finished but I may have two or three thoughts that have escaped me at the moment, so I should like to take this opportunity to adjourn the debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten):** Order. It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely notices of motions.

**CANADIAN CONSTITUTION****COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER DIVISION OF  
LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS**

On the order:

Notices of motions—Mr. Asselin (Notre Dame de Grâce):

That a special committee be appointed to consider matters relating to the constitutional structure of Canada, desirable changes thereto and in particular, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the proper division of legislative functions between levels of government; that the committee have power to send for persons and papers; that it report from time to time its findings and recommendations to the house; that standing order No. 67 be suspended in relation to the committee; and that it consist of 24 members to be designated at a later date.

**Mr. MacNaught:** Mr. Speaker, I suggest that, with unanimous consent of the house, this motion stand.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten):** In order for this motion to be retained on the order paper there will need to be unanimous consent. Does the house give unanimous consent for this motion to stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion stands.

**INCOME TAX ACT****SUGGESTED DEDUCTIONS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
POLITICAL PARTIES**

**Mr. J. E. Lloyd (Halifax)** moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should consider the advisability of amending the Income Tax Act to permit taxpayers to deduct from taxable income contributions to registered national political parties, providing such deductions do not exceed a stated maximum percentage of taxable income.