

PUBLIC SERVICE

REQUEST FOR ESCALATOR CLAUSE IN
SUPERANNUATION ACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister seen the letter sent to him by the president of the Federal Superannuates National Association asking for an escalator clause to be put into the Public Service Superannuation Act? If so, can the Prime Minister say what reply he has made or will make to that letter?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member asks if the Prime Minister has received or seen a letter. That is not a subject which is considered as urgent at the present time. I would ask the hon. member to put that question on the order paper, or debate it on another occasion.

DIVORCE

ROYAL COMMISSION CONSIDERATION OF
DIVORCE AND ABORTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Prime Minister. I wonder if he can say whether the government will give early consideration to the request made, I believe today, by the Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Canada that royal commissions be established in the matters of divorce and abortion.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is true that for those who were there this morning it was a very satisfactory meeting with the organization in question. We did receive that recommendation, among others, and I informed the representatives of the organization that the government would give consideration to all their recommendations.

FISHERIES

INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING
GEOGRAPHICAL CO-ORDINATES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and ask him if he was able, as he hoped he would be, to discuss with United States representatives the implications of the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act; and whether as a result of this

Inquiries of the Ministry

discussion the minister is now in a position to state that the government is able to establish geographical co-ordinates to protect the contiguous areas along our coast for the exclusive use of Canadian fishermen?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did discuss this matter of territorial waters and fishing zones with Mr. Rusk and his colleagues. We resumed our negotiations and I think we made some progress on Friday and Saturday last. We are now awaiting a response to proposals that the Canadian government has made, designed to establish exclusive fishing zone rights for Canadian fishermen.

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs say whether the negotiations with other countries involved have been concluded?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): No, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs to seek some clarification of the reply given earlier to the hon. member for Queens in respect of the negotiations in Washington concerning the 12-mile limit and the base line co-ordinates. If I heard the minister correctly, the minister said we had now resumed negotiations. In view of the many occasions upon which we have been told in the house by the hon. gentleman himself and more particularly by the Minister of Fisheries that we have been pressing forward vigorously with negotiations concerning this matter—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member knows that questions should not be prefaced by lengthy preambles. I would invite him to put his question at this time if he has one in mind.

Mr. Barnett: My question is simply this. In view of the minister's statement that he has resumed negotiations, would he inform the house when it was that the earlier negotiations with the United States ceased?

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I wonder if the Prime Minister will