

hon. member for Peace River about a case in British Columbia.

I did look into the case that was mentioned. Of course I cannot comment on it while it is sub judice. However, when the facts are established, if there are any evidentiary rulings after the case has been heard and an appeal, if any, disposed of, I undertake to have my department look into the matter to see whether the Canada Evidence Act should be altered in view of the decisions.

FISHERIES

INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL CO-ORDINATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ron Basford (Vancouver-Burrard): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister arising out of his statement before the external affairs committee this morning. When will the Secretary of State for External Affairs announce the establishment of geographic co-ordinates to include Dixon entrance, Hecate strait and Queen Charlotte sound within the protected fisheries of Canada?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I cannot give any firm date, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has already announced that within the next few days the government will issue a first list of geographical co-ordinates of points which will permit the immediate enforcement of a straight base line system along the coast of Labrador and the eastern and southern shores of Newfoundland, and that other lists will follow for other areas. When the minister makes the announcement in respect of other areas will he tell the house whether they will include the gulf of St. Lawrence as a body of water that will be defined as internal waters of Canada?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, section 5 of the act authorizes the government to establish base lines. The base lines depend largely on the negotiations which are under way. We have established the co-ordinates along the coast of Labrador and the south-eastern and southwestern coasts of Newfoundland. When we are in a position, depending on our negotiations, to announce further base lines, this will be done.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Basford: What countries are opposing the establishment of these co-ordinates on the west coast?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

DRUGS

ANTI-TRUST PROCEEDINGS AGAINST UNITED STATES FIRMS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Registrar General of Canada. I should like to ask him whether he or his department is in contact with the United States justice department's anti-trust division in connection with the prosecution by the United States government of three of the largest drug companies in the United States for conspiring to keep the prices of antibiotic drugs at an abnormally high price and if so whether action of a similar nature may be expected in Canada.

Hon. John N. Turner (Registrar General): We are following the progress of that case in the United States.

Mr. Orlikow: On a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, could I ask the Registrar General whether his department has established or is considering the establishment of regular communications with the United States government in this respect.

Mr. Turner: As I said, Mr. Speaker, we are following the presentation of evidence in this case and will examine the results when the court makes its decision.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Registrar General whether the officials in his department are investigating the activities of these three companies, with reference in particular to the antibiotics aureomycin and terramycin, with a view to seeing whether a similar conspiracy obtains in Canada to maintain artificially high prices; and if such an investigation is being carried out what action does the government intend to take in the light of that investigation?

Mr. Turner: Mr. Speaker, as I have said, the director of investigation and research of the combines branch is following the course of this investigation in the United States. I think he can be expected to take whatever action his statutory duties demand. I am also watching it.