

orderly payment of such debts, and la loi Lacombe in the Province of Quebec.

I wonder, however, whether the minister is right in asking for comments by the end of January since he intends to bring in legislation at an early date. I suggest to him that because of the vastly changed social and economic conditions it would be better to refer the report to the appropriate committee, say the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee, and that the public be invited to make representations and comments with regard to it. I put it to you, Mr. Speaker, that there is no point in making representations to the minister himself, with the minister then introducing a bill which would have to be commented upon and likely severely attacked and modified in committee. I suggest that in the long run the better procedure would be to refer the report to the committee and have representations made publicly, not to the minister. It is not the minister and his officials who are going to decide the bankruptcy law of this country; the provinces have something to say, as does also the public.

• (11:20 a.m.)

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I have not yet had an opportunity to look at this report and therefore I cannot make any lengthy or intelligent comment upon it. However, this party is extremely interested in the report, which affects not only commercial and general trade activity but also individuals, particularly small businessmen. As we know, for a long time there has been a need for revision of the bankruptcy and insolvency laws. All I need say at this time is that we promise the minister, the government and also the people that we will give this report careful study and will co-operate as much as we can in bringing forward in the House updated and satisfactory bankruptcy legislation.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I wish first to express my appreciation to the minister for tabling in the House this report which has been expected for six years at least.

Having had an opportunity to study it this morning, I must agree with the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert).

I suggest that this report should instead be referred to the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, for it contains more than 110 very important recommendations. These recommendations, however, are not divided by chapters. They deal with the bankrupt, the registrar, the public trustee and also the procedure for obtaining release. These recommendations are very important in my opinion, but we should instead have an opportunity to study this report in the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee to help the minister, and as he has just stated, to be able to make interesting suggestions, for after a quick glance at this report, I still note further shortcomings in the present Bankruptcy Act.

For instance, as far as courts are concerned, it is recommended that the Superior Courts of the provinces

### *Fisheries Closing Lines*

be the ones empowered from now on to settle bankruptcy problems.

It is now common knowledge that in the bankruptcy field some dilatory disputes, instead of being brought before Bankruptcy Courts, are referred to Superior Courts, and these being over-burdened with cases, it takes at least three years to obtain a decision, which in turn delays decisions in Bankruptcy Courts, to the detriment of the bankrupt and the trustee.

Some regulations I consider to be valid but on the other hand, if we want to study the pros and cons, it is very important that the minister, before asking us to submit written recommendations to assist him in introducing a bill, should give us an opportunity to examine the whole file within the Justice and Legal Affairs committee, where we will be able to help him to prepare his bill and take into consideration amendments not provided in the recommendations, and also see that the recommendations submitted this morning are implemented.

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[English]

### FISHERIES

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERIES CLOSING LINES

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, by amending the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act earlier this year Parliament laid the foundation for the establishment of exclusive Canadian fishing zones comprising certain areas of the sea adjacent to the coast of Canada. These provisions were enabling only. The creation of new zones requires executive action by way of an Order in Council.

I am pleased to inform the House today that the required action is now being taken to draw "fisheries closing lines" across the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Bay of Fundy, Queen Charlotte Sound and Dixon Entrance-Hecate Strait. A government notice to this effect will be published in the Canada Gazette on December 26, 1970.

The fisheries closing lines will become effective immediately upon the expiration of the mandatory 60 days waiting period imposed by the amended Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act.

The special areas to be enclosed by fisheries closing lines are important fishing zones for Canada. The Gulf of St. Lawrence has had annual landings of up to 550 million pounds of fish valued at \$31 million, the Bay of Fundy's landings are about 300 million pounds yearly, worth about \$12 million, and the Pacific Coast area has landings of 180 million pounds, worth \$37 million.

Having established these new fishing zones, the Canadian government intends to conclude negotiations for the phasing out of the fishing activities of certain countries which have traditionally fished in the areas concerned, namely, the United Kingdom, Denmark, France, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Spain. Canada has recently entered into an agreement on reciprocal fishing