

*Inquiries of the Ministry*POTATOES—REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MISSION
TO PROMOTE EXPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the deterioration of seed potato sales in the past few months, will the minister and his department give consideration to the inauguration of a special mission which might further increase this potential and thus alleviate the serious position the potato market has assumed in recent months?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we are actively seeking new markets. I had the opportunity of discussing this very serious problem with the premier of Prince Edward Island when I visited there last week.

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): Having now reported on this conversation, will the minister tell us whether a special mission, like other special missions which have been established, will be set up for the express purpose of helping to solve problems in respect of seed potatoes?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is reiterating his question.

BANKRUPTCYREQUEST THAT ACT BE PROCLAIMED
IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Melvin McQuaid (Kings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether he has received a request from the Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island for a proclamation by the governor in council declaring part X of the Bankruptcy Act to be in force in that province?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not believe the question is in order. It could easily be placed on the order paper. If there is some urgency, which is not apparent to me, it might be discussed later on today.

The hon. member for Kootenay West.

Mr. Herridge: The minister has sent me an answer by mail since I rose.

INDIAN AFFAIRSREQUEST FOR RECONSTITUTION OF
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of [Mr. Winters.]

National Health and Welfare in his capacity as government house leader. In view of the anticipated adjournment of the house and the government's long delay in dealing with urgent problems in respect of Indian affairs, with particular reference to the visit by members of parliament to reservations planned over a year ago, will the minister take the necessary action to reconstitute the parliamentary committee on Indian affairs in order that it might meet from time to time and adjourn from place to place during the parliamentary recess?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to consider that request and discuss it with the minister.

FISHERIESINQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF STRAIGHT
BASE LINES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): Mr. Speaker, in view of the desperate plight of the Canadian east coast fishing industry I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he can now inform the house of any progress being made toward the further establishment of base lines, which would serve as a conservative measure in respect of Canada's fisheries.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If my memory serves me correctly this question was asked just a few days ago.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member might ask another question, as the question asked by the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg was not acceptable and there can be no supplementary question.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I will phrase my question somewhat differently. Since it has been three years or more since the government said it would put base lines into effect, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs what is holding them back. Why can members not get answers to questions? Has the government dropped the Pearson gunboat philosophy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.