

Inquiries of the Ministry

very strong preference during the month of August, and as long as it takes to fill shipping orders, to points that have not delivered their eight-bushel quota.

Now, as time goes on, we will try to draw grain as fairly as we can from all parts of the prairies, but I cannot commit myself to any mathematical distribution. We will do the best we can.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I just want the general plan.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Yes.

[Later:]

INQUIRY AS TO POLICY REGARDING OFF-SITE
STORAGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. G. McCullough (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Could the minister inform the house, in view of the almost certainty of storage facilities being taxed to the limit, at least during the early part of the new crop year, if the government will give consideration to continuing last year's policy with regard to off-site storage for grain stored in skating rinks, and consideration even to extending off-site storage on properly farm-stored grain?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, this matter has been considered and my advisers believe that the off-site storage of grain has been carried far enough. We find that there is no turn-over of that grain and we are in some doubt as to the condition of some of it, though the responsibility for the condition rests with the elevator company which has placed it in storage. We think that grain should be available for immediate shipment as required and therefore we have discontinued the policy of further licensing of off-site storage.

PRIVILEGE

MR. MCCULLOUGH, MOOSE MOUNTAIN—
REFERENCE TO ANSWER GIVEN IN
HOUSE ON JULY 27

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. G. McCullough (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Last Friday I asked a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. As reported at page 6530 of *Hansard* I said this:

This seems to be a departure from previous years when flax was not under quota. Will flax be under quota during the new crop year?

The minister's answer was that last year there had been a quota but that it had been removed early in the year. In a press report of July 28 appearing in the *Leader-Post*, and

referring to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, I note the following:

His officials said later that Mr. Howe had erred on this point. An announcement by the Canadian wheat board July 19, 1955, showed there was no quota control set for flax or Durum wheat for 1955-56. Neither had there been a quota for 1954-55.

I wonder if the minister would correct his answer to me so that there may be no misconception of the policy last year.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I will be glad to do so. I was in error. I had in mind that we started with a quota on flax and Durum and that it was removed. That is not the case. We had small crops of flax and Durum last year and there was no quota on these grains from the beginning of the crop year. This year we have much larger crops of flax and Durum and it was felt that a five-bushel quota would place some limitation on the amount that would be delivered in the early stages. Of course, the quota will be raised as we are able to market the crops.

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain): I wonder if I might be permitted to ask a further question? In view of the statement the minister has just made, that there will be a greatly increased crop of flax and Durum and that they are going to be under quota, I wonder if his department would give consideration to including those two crops under the Canadian wheat board.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): As my hon. friend knows, we are unable to do that without legislation. I have given reasons why the government does not believe that flax should be included in the crops marketed by the wheat board. I think my hon. friend will agree that the price of flax is very satisfactory at the present time. We see no reason for interfering with the situation.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

PETERBOROUGH—REFERENCE TO COST OF
INSTALLATION OF TELEVISION
EQUIPMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Postmaster General. Does the contract price of over \$50,000 for T.V. cameras and equipment, installation and maintenance for one year for the Peterborough post office also cover the cost of building the new viewing or T.V. inspection room that has just been built in that post office?