

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my hon. friend, who did not give notice of his question—at least it did not reach me—would not expect an immediate reply, certainly not one in terms of precision. I am sure he will appreciate that everything is being done in the matter that can be done. If my hon. friend will permit me to consider his question as notice, I shall bring it to the attention of my colleague at once. He is now engaged on important business outside the house.

Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) to make the final payment in respect to the 1953-54 wheat crop. That is not the case. Actually the closing date was April 29 and computations are being made upon which the final payment can be determined. This is being done expeditiously and cheques will go out at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Is the minister in a position to make an estimate as to the amount?

Mr. Winters: No.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLAN**SUGGESTED SETTING UP OF COMMITTEE TO STUDY OTTAWA PLANNING**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. Is it still the intention of the government to set up a committee to look into the affairs of the federal district commission? I ask this question with particular reference to the fact that it seems the planning of Ottawa, particularly the green belt, has been endangered. What steps is the government taking to protect the plan?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I should like to take the hon. gentleman's question as notice because, to my knowledge, no recent consideration has been given to the matter, but I shall have it brought up at once.

GRAIN**WHEAT—REQUEST FOR FINAL PAYMENT ON 1953-54 POOL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I should like to address a question to the Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce, arising out of representations from various farm organizations in western Canada. In view of the unusually serious climatic conditions that are affecting seeding operations, and the contraction of credit that the farmers are suffering from at this time, will the minister give reconsideration to the question so that the wheat board may proceed at once to start distribution of the final payments on the 1953-54 pool rather than, as reported in the press, awaiting the return of the Minister of Trade and Commerce?

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my hon. friend for indicating to me a few moments ago that he would ask this question as it gives me an opportunity to clear up the impression that the wheat board is awaiting the return of the

WATER POLLUTION**BEDFORD BASIN—INQUIRY AS TO CONTAMINATION FROM GARBAGE DISPOSAL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. R. Balcom (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport or to his parliamentary assistant. Is the minister aware of the fact that garbage, which might affect the health of residents along Bedford basin, is being dumped along the shores of Halifax? Are steps being taken to prevent further contamination of the waters of the basin and harbour?

Mr. L. Langlois (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for Halifax for having given me notice of his intention to ask this question. In reply I may say that at the urgent request of the city of Halifax permission was granted by the national harbours board for the dumping of incinerated materials on certain areas along the shore of Bedford basin, and the city has obtained approval under the Navigable Waters Protection Act for this purpose. However, I wish to assure my hon. friend that complaints to the effect that a nuisance is being created thereby have been brought to the attention of the proper authorities.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**SUGGESTED REFERENCE OF ITEMS IN ESTIMATES TO COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Revenue if he is prepared to give an answer to the question I asked on April 21, as reported on page 3023 of *Hansard*, as to whether the government is prepared to have referred to the special committee on radio broadcasting and television those items in the estimates which pertain to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, such as Nos. 56 and 57.