

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

essential condition if we are going to have a successful conference. [Text]

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has given a lengthy explanation in which he said, among other things that there should be a diminution of military pressure. He then stated that the main aggressor was North Viet Nam. Will he tell us who the minor aggressor is, or explain what he meant by that statement?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I think what I meant was that the aggressor was clearly North Viet Nam. If I said "main" that was unnecessary. The aggressor clearly has been North Viet Nam.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** This makes very clear, does it not, that the government of Canada considers what the United States is doing is fair and proper, having regard to the provocation and the position of responsibility that rests upon it under the 1954 accord?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I have said that North Viet Nam was the main aggressor.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** There is "main aggressor" again.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I mean, the aggressor. We have noted that the government of the United States has said it proposes not to engage in an expansion of the conflict and that the action it has taken under its authority recently was for a limited purpose.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I should like to direct a question—

**Mr. Caouette:** I have a supplementary question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; there have been a great number of supplementary questions but perhaps we could finish with the subject by allowing one more from the hon. member for Villeneuve.

[Translation]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the Canadian government officially approved the action taken by the United States at the moment of the attack in North Viet Nam?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Naturally, we feel that according to the agreements a country has the right to defend itself.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

## GRAIN

## STEPS TO STABILIZE WHEAT PRICE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River):** My question is directed to the Minister of Trade and Commerce and it is of national importance, particularly in western Canada. What effect will the wheat war have on the over-all price of grain in the crop year, and what steps has the government taken to stabilize the price of wheat and keep markets for Canada?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** May I be permitted to answer this question—not in my own words, because the hon. gentleman might not give them quite as much weight as he might the words of the international wheat council or the words of the secretary of agriculture of the United States.

The international wheat council, following its meeting held the other day, made this statement about the recent adjustment in wheat prices. The council noted that in the past fortnight particularly, a major readjustment had taken place in the general level of world prices in response to the marked changes in supply conditions in the current crop year which had by now manifested their full effects. The council concluded that this adjustment had, generally speaking, brought prices back to the level prevailing in mid 1963 before the onset of the exceptional demand circumstances which had marked the first half of the 1963-64 crop year. It expressed confidence that this adjustment had run its course and that prices would now stabilize at the new levels.

The secretary of agriculture of the United States said something similar on February 5, when he said that importers have been anticipating adjustments in world price levels as the result of the exceedingly heavy supplies in exporting countries. These adjustments have now been made.

**Mr. Woolliams:** May I ask a supplementary question? I wonder if the minister can advise the house, in view of what he has just said, what the payment will be for the crop year? This is a question that has been put to many members by farmers in western Canada. Now that the minister has made his statement, could he let us have that information?

**Mr. Sharp:** Perhaps this would be of interest to all members of the house. The hon. member for Medicine Hat has given me notice of a similar question concerning the