

Inquiries of the Ministry

that the hearings would begin in approximately two months. It is now more than two months since the commission was appointed.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): In a conversation which I had some weeks ago with the chairman of the royal commission on transportation he indicated that he was anxious to proceed with the hearings as quickly as possible, and stated that he thought the commission would be ready to proceed by the end of April. Since then I have been informed that some of the provinces have sought some delay in order to prepare their cases. I cannot give any further information.

Mr. Green: Does the minister know which provinces have asked for the delay?

Mr. Chevrier: I am not able to say.

Mr. Green: Will the minister find out?

Mr. Chevrier: Yes.

HOUSING**FAIRCRAFT FLAT-ROOF HOUSES OCCUPIED BY VETERANS—QUESTION AS TO DEFECTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Has the soldier settlement and Veterans Land Act branch of the minister's department done anything to correct the defects in the Faircraft flat-roof houses occupied by veterans across Canada?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I shall take note of the hon. member's question and give an answer later.

COARSE GRAINS**INQUIRY AS TO CONFERENCE WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. O. Probe (Regina City): On Wednesday, February 23, the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Thatcher) addressed a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, to which the parliamentary assistant replied, stating in effect that it would be dealt with by the minister upon his return to the house. The hon. member's question was:

In view of the conclusion last month of the conference on coarse grains between the federal government, provincial governments and the Canadian federation of agriculture, can the minister indicate when he will give a statement to the house as to what was accomplished, and what decisions were reached?

Will the minister indicate whether an answer is being prepared?

[Mr. Green.]

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The matters referred to in the question are still under study. I hope to be able to make a statement to the house within the next two weeks.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**CHANGES IN SEATING ARRANGEMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. A. Cruickshank (Fraser Valley): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier). Now that the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) has been moved forward, when will the hon. member for Grey North (Mr. Case) be moved to the front ranks?

Mr. Fraser: After you uncrook your shanks.

POSTAL SERVICE**NEW STAMP ISSUES—ENTRY OF NEWFOUNDLAND—HALIFAX CENTENARY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. O. Probe (Regina City): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Postmaster General. For the purpose of answering inquiries by Canadian and other stamp collectors, will he inform the house whether his department has planned a special stamp issue to celebrate the entry of Newfoundland into confederation, when this is achieved? What other commemorative or special stamp issues are planned for this year by the Postmaster General?

Hon. Ernest Bertrand (Postmaster General): The answer to the first question is in the affirmative; a stamp is now being printed. We also have another historical stamp which is to come out in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Halifax.

FISHERIES**SUPPLY OF BAIT TO LOBSTER FISHERMEN, DIGBY, N.S.**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. W. Mayhew (Minister of Fisheries): Yesterday the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) asked a question about seining for herring in Digby basin. I should like now to answer the question.

The department has received two telegrams with reference to winter seining in Annapolis basin. The department's information is that of six weirs licensed in the basin, one only operated this winter, and it has operated only partly. Three seine boats had been operating up to recently in the basin, but ceased operations at the end of last week.