

NATIONAL DEFENCE

ALLEGED TORTURE OF GERMAN SPIES BY CANADIAN TROOPS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): My question is one for the Minister of National Defence. In view of wire service news stories on Monday that three former nazi espionage agents claim they were tortured by Canadian troops in the Netherlands in 1944, has the department of defence any information about the accuracy of the reports—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is a question for the order paper.

TRADE

WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO EXPORTS IN CURRENT CROP YEAR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Would the minister care to comment on informed forecasts that Canadian exports of wheat for the year ending this month will reach a maximum of not more than 328 million bushels and may be as low as 312 million bushels?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, this seems a curious sort of question. There does not seem to be any urgency to it, but if the hon. member wants to know my guess it would be that our exports will be of the order of 325 million bushels. How much they will actually be we will find out at the end of the crop year.

Mr. McIntosh: A supplementary question. In view of the fact that exports last year were over 350 million bushels, what special efforts has the minister or his department made, if any, to accelerate wheat sales for the year ending July 31, 1963?

Mr. Sharp: As I have explained to hon. members opposite on several occasions, when we took office there were complaints from farm organizations, who are the people most concerned, about the drop in export sales. This was unfortunate, but it was the situation that we had to cope with when we took office. The wheat board are very well aware of the necessity of maintaining, and indeed increasing, exports of wheat and flour. I was with them last week. I do not think we could do anything more at the moment to support their efforts than we are presently doing. I expect this will be on the whole a fairly good year in spite of the poor situation which we inherited when we took office.

Mr. McIntosh: A supplementary question.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: So long as it is a question and you are not entering into debate.

Mr. McIntosh: I am not entering into debate. I would ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce whether he is not aware that the elected members of western Canada represent the wheat producers, and not the farm organizations?

Mr. Sharp: Well, I am sure the farm organizations of western Canada feel that they speak for their members.

[Later:]

Mr. J. E. Pascoe (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre): I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce relating to an earlier statement he made in the house. Is the minister aware that according to dominion bureau of statistics figures, exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour to the end of April, when the Liberal government took over, totalled nearly 250 million bushels, the second highest figure on record and much higher than the ten year average 1951 to 1961?

RAPESEED—REQUEST FOR AID IN SALE TO JAPAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce concerning a matter of urgency. The minister is aware of the fact that Japan ranks No. 1 in dollar value as a user of rapeseed. Can the minister arrange with Mr. McNamara, chairman of the Canadian wheat board, who is at present in China, to visit and negotiate with Japan for the sale of rapeseed? Information coming out of the west indicates a bumper crop of rapeseed this year.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): As the hon. gentleman knows, the Canadian wheat board does not handle rapeseed. However, I shall see that the trade commissioner in Tokyo is made aware of the hon. gentleman's interest, and he will do his best to dispose of the rapeseed.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

MALAYSIA—INQUIRY AS TO FORMAL RECOGNITION BY CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has Canada given or when will she give formal recognition to the state of Malaysia, formed as the result of an agreement signed yesterday by the countries of Malaya, Singapore, British North Borneo and Sarawak?