Mr. Sharp: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I do not understand the purport of the question. Perhaps it could be put in a different way.

Mr. Hales: Has the Minister been in conversation with the Canadian furniture manufacturers with respect to a free trade policy similar to that concerning the car dealers?

Mr. Sharp: Not to my knowledge. The furniture industry were invited to make their representations before the opening of the negotiations under the Kennedy round. I gather they did, and I saw some of their representations.

HATE LITERATURE

CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the standing committee of this House on external affairs in the last session did a considerable amount of work and received a lot of important evidence on the subject of hate literature, and two private members' bills on the subject were referred to that committee, will steps be taken to refer these matters to the Standing Committee on External Affairs in this session as soon as possible?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I will be glad to consider that matter, Mr. Speaker.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON MEETING OF ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Has the Minister any information on the important Atlantic Development Board meeting being held in Halifax at the present time?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have anything I can communicate to the House. I have not yet had any official report.

Mr. Bell: A supplementary question. Appreciating that it would not be desirable to report on everything the Atlantic Development Board decide, would the Minister give a report to the House on those matters which

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have a particular federal interest which may be decided upon? I think the Minister knows what I am particularly referring to.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I am always glad at any appropriate time to give a report on the wonderful work being done by the Atlantic Development Board.

Mr. Mandziuk: Set up by the Conservatives.

Mr. Pickersgill: And financed by this government.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

BRIEF OF ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS RESPECTING COMMISSION REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In her absence perhaps I could direct it to her seatmate the Solicitor General. Could the Minister inform the House whether she has received a brief from the Canadian Association of Optometrists, based on the views of the Hall Commission report, which they interpret as an attack upon the optometrists association? Has the Minister any remarks to give to the house on this matter?

Hon. J. Watson MacNaught (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to take the hon. Member's question as notice and refer it to the attention of the Minister; and I am sure she will make a full report, as she always does.

● (2:50 p.m.)

NATIONAL DEFENCE

BILINGUAL REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO PROMOTIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, recently I addressed a question to the President of the Privy Council asking whether he was aware of the fact that certain junior officers in the armed forces had been notified that they could not expect further promotions unless they were completely bilingual. In view of the fact that the Minister of National Defence is now in the house perhaps I should ask him whether he is aware of the circularization of such a policy, either by letter or verbally, amongst the armed forces?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker, I have neither heard nor seen such a circular, and I am sure this is a lot of nonsense.