

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

government this morning and will be delivered to the United States authorities this afternoon. All I can say is that the Canadian government maintains the position which already has been stated in this house. With reference to the hearing before the committee of the house on this matter, I believe it would be quite inappropriate for me to discuss this.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Would the Prime Minister table the two notes from the United States and the reply by Canada, after securing the permission of the United States government? I think this is a matter upon which parliament has a right to know the true facts.

**Mr. Pearson:** I think the house has taken a decision regarding the tabling of the diplomatic correspondence in respect of this matter.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Why? Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he will ask the United States government for permission.

**Mr. Pearson:** No, Mr. Speaker. This diplomatic correspondence will be treated as such.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** You do not want the facts to be elucidated.

**Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic):** Mr. Speaker, did the Prime Minister inquire into the effect this matter might have on Canadian banks in the United States?

**Mr. Pearson:** Naturally all factors were taken into consideration before this note was drafted and agreed on.

**TRADE****ENTRY OF U.K. INTO COMMON MARKET—  
PROTECTION FOR CANADIAN TRADING  
INTERESTS**

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. In view of the fact that Prime Minister Wilson is making a new attempt to gain entry into the European common market, I should like to know whether Canada has been made aware of the terms and conditions and whether there is any protection for our trading interests with the United Kingdom, particularly in respect of agricultural products such as wheat.

[Mr. Pearson.]

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, this is a matter which primarily concerns the government of Great Britain and the common market countries. At various times, however, Canada has had discussions with members of the present British government with regard to Britain's intentions, and we have likewise noted observations made by common market countries regarding the British desire to participate.

**Mr. Olson:** Will the minister tell us, in view of the information Canada has, whether this will create any problem in respect of the trading relations we now have with regard to the export of wheat from Canada to Britain?

**Mr. Martin:** Mr. Speaker, I suggest that this is hardly the kind of question which should be asked on the orders of the day.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am in full agreement with the minister. He rose just a little faster than I did. I think the hon. member for Medicine Hat recognizes the point.

**Mr. Olson:** Mr. Speaker, I will pursue the matter at ten o'clock.

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****STEPS TO MEET INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that from August to December the price index has risen so that the cost of living now stands at the all time high of 145.9, is the government planning to take any action to cope with the steady increase in the cost of living?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, this is a question of a very general nature which I do not think it is appropriate to deal with here. I might just say that the government has been taking measures which have in fact resulted in a smaller increase in prices than otherwise would have taken place, and certainly smaller than would have taken place had we followed the advice of the opposition.

**Mr. Douglas:** In view of the suggestions made to the minister from time to time, has any progress been made with regard to the setting up of a prices review board? Also, what progress has been made in respect of the income progress study which the Economic Council of Canada has undertaken?