

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 2, 1965

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

PRIVATE BILLS

SIXTH AND SEVENTH REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE—CONCURRENCE IN SEVENTH REPORT

Mr. Gérard Loiselle (St. Ann) presented the sixth and seventh reports of the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills, and moved that the seventh report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER TO INQUIRE INTO ALLEGED FRAUDULENT VOTING IN B.C.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I should like to announce the appointment of Hon. N. T. Nemetz, judge of the supreme court of British Columbia, as a commissioner under the Inquiries Act to inquire fully into and to investigate charges of irregularities in the federal election of 1963. I will be in a position if the house agrees, Mr. Speaker, to table the order in council later this afternoon.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister respecting the terms of reference and the authority granted to the judicial inquiry which he announced today would be held by Mr. Justice Nemetz. Will an opportunity be afforded to all political parties to have representatives or counsel at this inquiry?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not given consideration to this matter. The order in council establishing the commissioner has now been signed and will be tabled, as I said, later in the afternoon.

20220—751½

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Chapleau.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I had wanted to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture, but due to his absence I shall let it stand until later.

[Text]

GRAIN

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL PAYMENT FOR 1963-64 CROP YEAR

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, in Winnipeg today the Canadian wheat board is announcing the final payment on wheat delivered to the board during the crop year 1963-64. Producers delivered a total of 563,875,208 bushels of wheat to the board in the 1963-64 crop year. This is the largest volume of wheat ever delivered by producers to the board in a single crop year. The amount of the final payment to be distributed to producers is approximately \$272 million. This final payment is a record in the history of board operations.

This is not, I need hardly remind members of the house, a payment by the government of Canada; it represents the net returns of the Canadian wheat board in the marketing of western Canadian wheat for the 1963-64 crop year. Of the total payment approximately \$18 million will be distributed to producers of Durum wheat.

The average final payment for wheat other than Durum is 48.725 cents per bushel, which is also a record. The average final payment for Durum wheat is 42.317 cents per bushel. These average payments compare with 40.181 cents per bushel for grades of wheat other than Durum, and 64.780 cents per bushel for Durum wheat delivered by producers in the 1962-63 crop year. The board will commence issuing final payment cheques to producers on March 8.

The final payment is being made on a grade basis, as prescribed in the Canadian Wheat Board Act. The rates of final payment for the principal grades of wheat are as follows: