

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

thinking can be undertaken on governmental matters of all kinds" as mentioned by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and reported in *Hansard* of November 19, 1969 at page 996.

**Mr. J. E. Walker (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the policy matters dealt with in this report, which was received from Mr. Ritchie in December last, are now under examination by the government and will be the subject of publication in due course. In view of this, perhaps the hon. member would wish to withdraw the motion.

**Mr. Nystrom:** In view of that, Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion dropped.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

WHEAT BOARD REGULATIONS—CORRESPONDENCE WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

Motion No. 377—**Mr. Southam:**

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House copies of all correspondence between the Government of Canada and the Ministers of Agriculture of the Provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and British Columbia, concerning the application and enforcement of the Regulations of the Canadian Wheat Board, between December 1, 1969 and January 31, 1970.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Stand.

**Mr. Speaker:** Stand.

LOWER INVENTORY FOR TOMORROW AND WHEAT ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Motion No. 392—**Mr. Burton:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of all background studies and reports prepared for the government in connection with the Lower Inventory for Tomorrow and Wheat Acreage Reduction Programs.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I move this motion on behalf of the hon. member.

**Mr. D. W. Groos (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I am informed by the hon. Otto E. Lang, Minister without Portfolio, that there are no background studies or reports prepared for the government as requested by the hon. member. Background material on this subject has been prepared by government officials. However, such material constitutes internal government documents and is therefore privileged. As there is no material suitable for tabling, the minister would ask the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** On behalf of the hon. member it had better be transferred for debate.

**Mr. Speaker:** Transferred for debate.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

**THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the indication in the report of the Auditor General that all is not yet perfect in the area of government expenditures, can the President of the Treasury Board tell us when the government will be introducing the legislation the Auditor General has been seeking to better define and enable him to carry out his position, duties and responsibilities? Can the President of the Treasury Board give the House the time when this legislation will be introduced?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think I can give a time. I recognize that there are certain things wrong with the present legislative arrangements in respect of the Auditor General, and to this end studies have been conducted looking toward new legislation. I have not been able to get a satisfactory time as yet from the House Leader so I would hesitate to give any undertaking.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It is apparently not only the existing legislation that is not entirely satisfactory. Does the President of the Treasury Board intend to take any steps to ensure that the arrangements in respect of staff for the Auditor General are more satisfactory to the Auditor General so that as an officer of this House he will not be dependent upon the overriding decisions of the minister and so that he will have the staff that he thinks he requires in order to do the job of investigation which obviously, as can be seen from his report, is required?

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, I might point out in this connection that the authorized establishment of the Auditor General has never up until the present been filled. The numbers authorized have always exceeded the strength. This continues to be the case. If the