

Inquiries of the Ministry

have anything to report to the house concerning the negotiations between Canada and China for the sale of further quantities of Canadian wheat. Would the minister care to say whether the report that agreement has been reached for the sale of 80 million bushels of wheat to China is correct? If so, will the announcement be made immediately?

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Agriculture): As I said in answer to a question by the Leader of the Opposition some time ago, this matter is still under discussion and it is not in the public interest to say any more.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Speaker, is the minister, by his statement, denying that part of the report which says an announcement will be made after seeding so the farmers will not seed additional acreage to wheat?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I think the hon. member for Assiniboia has a suspicious mind.

Mr. Argue: You did not deny it.

INDUSTRY**AUTOMOBILES—INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he is in a position now to indicate when we may expect the tabling of the royal commission report on the automobile industry by Professor Bladen?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the answer is in the negative.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): In view of the fact that Professor Bladen is reported to have discussed matters with the Prime Minister a few days ago, can the Prime Minister say whether the report will be tabled before the presentation of the budget by the Minister of Finance?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am unable to say.

PUBLICATIONS**INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask the Prime Minister whether we are likely to receive the report of the O'Leary commission before the press gallery dinner?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): I do not know what the contents will be, but I would hope it would be afterward.

[Mr. Argue.]

ESTATE TAX**CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA AND UNITED STATES FOR AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION**

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance) moved the third reading of Bill No. C-82, to implement a convention between Canada and the United States of America for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on the estates of deceased persons.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Flynn in the chair.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

308. Departmental administration including Canada's share of the upkeep of the international bureaux at Berne and Montevideo, \$2,174,216.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Chairman, it is really an impertinence to get up a second time on the first item of the minister's estimates, but I think I have a point that will interest the committee and I am sure will interest the minister. The Liberal party established a provisional kind of shadow cabinet to sit opposite the government departments in order to keep check. We all know the flair, the élan, and the wit which the hon. member for St. Denis has applied to this task. He has taken it with a great deal of seriousness. In a sense he has met the minister on many points of conflict, and we have had a great deal of humour and wit in the house with regard to the Post Office Department.

This is in a tradition. When the Conservatives were in the opposition the present Postmaster General was very much to the fore as the critic of the post office in that particular party grouping. We know how, with perhaps not quite the wit or the élan but certainly with even more persistence and study, he continually analysed and criticized the Post Office Department. Just the other day the Postmaster General was taken very much to task for the fact that he had failed to really carry out all the changes and improvements he had advocated when he was in this shadow cabinet position.

I hope that my remarks when I first spoke on this item indicated that I at least as an individual member have a great respect for the way in which the minister has gone into the operations of his department. Whatever the criticisms we may make, I think he has made an inordinate effort in relation to the job, more than most ministers do, in order to master all the details of the department. In fact he has become so knowledgeable about