

Inquiries of the Ministry

being made available under the loan and the grant will be shipped in the first quarter of 1959.

It will be recalled that on January 8 of this year my colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce announced that a \$15 million grant of flour and wheat would be made to India, Pakistan and Ceylon, and that \$35 million in credit for the purchase of wheat and flour would be available upon request to all Colombo plan countries. Of the \$15 million grant Ceylon received \$3 million worth of flour.

In February last a loan of \$25 million was made to India leaving \$10 million uncommitted, and it is from this sum that the current loan to Ceylon is to be financed. The terms of the loan are identical with those covering the loan to India, that is the loan is repayable in seven equal annual instalments, with the first payment due at the end of the second year. It will bear interest at the rate of 4½ per cent, payable annually.

I add to this statement that in the course of these discussions it was a matter of concern that the flour that Canada was being asked to provide to Ceylon might seriously jeopardize Australia's normal sale of wheat and flour to Ceylon. We have received firm assurances from the governments of Australia and Ceylon that the flour which we are now making available under the current loan and grant will not affect adversely Australia's interests.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether this particular grant to Ceylon, which we on this side support, is additional to the grant to India and Pakistan previously announced, and additional to the Colombo plan contribution?

Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac): That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

CRIMINAL LAW

CANADIAN PENAL SYSTEM—

CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER FAUTEUX REPORT

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to inform the house that our study of the Fauteux committee report and recommendations has now proceeded to the stage where we will be able to call a meeting with the provincial representatives to discuss the whole matter. I have accordingly written to the provincial attorneys general asking them to name a period within the month commencing September 16 when they would be able to come to Ottawa for a meeting for that purpose. It is anticipated that discussions will cover the whole field of the

Fauteux recommendations, including especially those where joint action or agreement by the dominion and the provinces is indicated. We on our part will be prepared to discuss all aspects and implications of the recommendations in that area, including any proposals put forward by the provinces.

TRADE

UNITED STATES—STATEMENT ON PRESSURE TO CURTAIL IMPORTS OF ALUMINUM

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition asked me a question with respect to the export of aluminum from Canada to the United States. My answer is that the government is aware of the efforts of primary aluminum producers in the United States to seek relief from the effects of a general decline in the level of their production. It is my understanding that one of the points raised by the United States industry is the adverse effect of Soviet sales of aluminum in world markets at cut-rate prices. These sales have also affected our exports.

While there has not been any direct attempt on the part of United States producers to identify their difficulties with imports of aluminum from Canada, the submission made by the producers to the United States administration proposed that there should be a regulation of imports from foreign countries. Any restrictions imposed on the import of aluminum into the United States or any action to raise the duty on aluminum would, of course, cause substantial damage to our Canadian interests.

It was with that thought in mind that we raised this matter in the discussions we had when the President and the Secretary of State of the United States were in Ottawa earlier this month. Our representatives in Washington are following developments closely, and the house can be assured that we shall take whatever action may be necessary to bring our views to the attention of the United States government.

BRIDGES

WELLAND CANAL—INQUIRY AS TO FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport and, in his absence, to the minister in charge. Is it the intention of this government to make any contribution toward the cost of the proposed three overhead