

to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Perhaps at the same time the minister could avail himself of the opportunity of answering the question put by the hon. member for Mégantic.

Can the minister tell the house which resolutions are presently being either sponsored or co-sponsored by Canada at the current general assembly of the United Nations?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question is not acceptable; it is not in order.

GRAIN

WHEAT—REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN PAYMENTS TO FARMERS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I do not quite know to whom to direct this question, but I will direct it to the Minister of Trade and Commerce in view of the absence of the Minister of Finance, who is spokesman for the wheat board.

Is the government now giving consideration to increasing the amount to be paid to the farmers for wheat in view of the fact that there was a cut a year ago of 18 cents a bushel, and in view of the continually rising cost of production? I put this question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce because he is the one who has lately been dealing with wheat.

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, this matter does not properly fall within my sphere of activity, but I will be glad to take the question as notice and refer it to the Minister of Finance.

[Later:]

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. When he and his cabinet colleagues are giving consideration to increasing the price of wheat, would he also have them give consideration to raising the initial payment so that farmers in the western prairies can meet their early fall commitments?

Mr. Winters: Mr. Speaker, here again is a matter that comes appropriately under the Minister of Finance, but we have been urging an increase in the price of wheat with every consuming country in the world and I hope in due course we shall succeed.

Inquiries of the Ministry

HIGHWAY SAFETY

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ACCIDENT RESEARCH CENTRE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, mention has already been made in the house today of the fact that once more we have set a record in Canada over this Thanksgiving week end for highway deaths and injuries. In view of this and in view of the unanimous—and I underline the word “unanimous”—recommendation of the committee on highway deaths and injuries which finished its studies of codes last week in Ottawa, is the government now considering the establishment of a national accident prevention research centre in Ottawa, and can we expect an announcement very soon in this regard?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, as I think I mentioned earlier in reply to a somewhat similar question, consideration is now being given by the National Research Council to the parameters involved in setting up an establishment such as suggested by the hon. gentleman. When this study is complete—I hope this will not be too long—we will be able to see what will be possible and what will be practicable.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister inform the house whether or not some time ago the proper authorities made representations to the transport commission for underpass or overpass facilities at the Dorion tragedy site? Can the minister also assure the house the transport commission study will include a rigid and exhaustive inspection of the vehicle involved in the accident?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think I can assure the hon. gentleman that every aspect of whatever evidence can be secured in connection with the state of the vehicle, the signals and any possibility of human error will be secured. It is the desire both of the railway and of the board of transport commissioners not merely to establish the facts of the situation but to see whether they will provide us with any light on the best way to prevent a repetition of such an occurrence, not just at Dorion but anywhere else.