

Inquiries of the Ministry

Commerce if he can advise the house whether Canada has signed the international grains agreement.

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have signed the international grains arrangement. The Canadian ambassador in Washington signed the wheat trade convention and the food aid convention on November 2. These two combined comprise the international grains arrangement which is designed to come into effect on July 1, 1968.

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS**REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF REPORT ON ELECTION EXPENSES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that today is not only the birthday of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre but also the second anniversary of the last election, which means that the next one is that much closer, has the government yet arrived at a decision on referring to the standing committee on privileges and elections the report of the committee on election expenses, as was promised in the speech from the throne?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I am unable to discover the relevancy of the two parts of the question. So far as the first part of the question is concerned, I think the two events deserve the same measure of celebration. So far as the last part of the question is concerned, I will look into it.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**INQUIRY AS TO NAMING OF APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Can he now name the four appointed members to the Northwest Territories council in order to enable those citizens who may wish to make submissions to council members to do so before next month? May I redirect my question to the Prime Minister?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): We hope to have the appointments made before the end of the week.

[Mr. McLelland.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**OTTAWA—COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE TO RUSSIAN EMBASSY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Terence Nugent (Edmonton-Strathcona): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Did he receive a request from the Russian ambassador for special police protection for their embassy last night? If so, can he tell us why enough police protection was not provided to prevent the shameful lawlessness which occurred there?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The Department of External Affairs has been in consultation with the Ottawa police who are, of course, the authorities directly responsible for the maintenance of law and order. The measures taken by the police were inadequate in the circumstances, in my judgment, and I regret that this was so. I took note of the Soviet representations, including those made by the ambassador, and directed that all desirable means of satisfying them be pursued. We were assured by the police that everything possible would be done within the law to avoid untoward incidents and to ensure that free access to the embassy was maintained, just as we would insist on free access to our embassy in Moscow or any other capital.

The police authorities pointed out, however, that there were clear statutory limitations to action which might be taken to deal with such demonstrations. The Soviet ambassador was so informed. Citizens in Canada, of course, are free to express their opinions in a lawful way. It is the responsibility of the police to deal with those who break the law.

I have directed that the necessary measures be initiated to compensate the Soviet government and to assist the Soviet embassy to clean up and repair the damage done.

IMMIGRATION**REQUEST FOR EARLY RECONSTITUTION OF JOINT COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the useful work done by the joint committee on immigration in the last session, and in view of the fact that they did not get a chance to report fully on the proposals in the white paper on immigration and the new regulations, will the minister confer with his