

*Inquiries of the Ministry***WHEAT****MARKETING SITUATION AND AVAILABILITY
OF CARS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce regarding the wheat marketing situation on the prairies and whether consideration will be given to making available to those farmers who have not as yet marketed the six bushel quota that was fixed originally sufficient cars for the transportation of their wheat. Is the minister in a position to give a general statement regarding the marketing situation and the availability of cars?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): About a week ago a circular went out from the wheat board to the effect that pressure for deliveries at Fort William had ceased and that henceforth priority would be given to congested points that have not been able to deliver their full quota and particularly to the shipment of damp grain. In other words, damp grain would be given priority over dry grain from such points. At the same time the transport controller ordered the railroads to give special priority to points in the province of Saskatchewan where congestion was apparent. From this time on an attempt will be made to correct all situations of the kind referred to by my hon. friend.

Next Monday and Tuesday I am meeting with the wheat board, the transport controller and the board of grain commissioners in Winnipeg for a two-day session to assess the transportation problem for the rest of the year and to lay plans for improving the situation in the best possible way. I hope that after that a more definite program can be announced.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I thank the minister for that statement.

POST OFFICE**INQUIRY AS TO DISPOSITION OF POINTS RAISED
BY POSTAL EMPLOYEES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. W. Noseworthy (York South): Will the Postmaster General tell the house what disposition he has made of the eight points raised by the postal employees at their meeting on June 24, 1951, and which he told the house would have to be taken up by the government before an announcement could be made.

Hon. Edouard Rinfret (Postmaster General): I gave the employees' association an answer in writing some time ago, which no doubt the hon. member has seen.

[Mr. Campney.]

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY**INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT—DIVISION OF
ESTIMATED COSTS AND EXPENDITURES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson), which he may prefer to treat as a notice. Is the government prepared to table what has been described as the infrastructure agreement which was entered into by the members of the North Atlantic Treaty council in Ottawa in September, or, in the alternative, to furnish details of the total figures of the estimated costs of their joint requirements and the division of that cost among the twelve countries along with the proportion of the expenditures to be borne by each of the twelve nations?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I shall have to take that question as a notice. The hon. member will appreciate that I shall have to communicate with the NATO council because it is understood that any information about their decisions has to be authorized by the council. I shall be glad to make available to the house all the information that can be published.

HOUSING**FINANCING OF HOUSES FOR DEFENCE WORKERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. W. Noseworthy (York South): Will the Minister of Resources and Development tell the house whether the lending institutions have accepted the government policy for financing houses for defence workers which he indicated to the house on November 5 was then under discussion with the lending institutions?

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Resources and Development): Mr. Speaker, the lending institutions are not joining with the government in arrangements for the building of houses for defence workers, but they have agreed to participate in joint loans which are available on the 80 per cent basis announced to the house some time ago.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**PROVISION FOR CONSOLIDATION AND REVISION OF
CERTAIN ACTS, AUDIT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS,
FINANCIAL CONTROL OF CROWN CORPORATIONS, ETC.**

Hon. Alphonse Fournier (for the Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of Bill No. 25, to provide for the financial administration of the government of Canada, the audit