

*Inquiries of the Ministry**(Translation):*

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I shall repeat my question. Does the Minister of Agriculture intend to recommend the establishment of a support price for pulpwood, as requested by the farmers concerned?

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest that this question be put on the order paper.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, he was asked to repeat the question.

Mr. Pigeon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think my question was proper and I would be very pleased if the minister would answer it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question was quite in order, but it should be put on the order paper.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**PROCEDURE IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS
ON ORDER PAPER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, actually the hon. member for Ontario asked the Prime Minister the question I wanted to ask and I welcome the Prime Minister's answer. But since you have called on me perhaps I might put a question to the Secretary of State. In order to save a little time on Mondays and Wednesdays, I wonder whether it is not possible to avoid Your Honour having to call the number of every question on the order paper. Did we not for a time have a device whereby the Secretary of State would rise and say that questions numbers so and so were answered and questions numbers so and so were to be made orders for returns? Would the Secretary of State consider the matter?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I welcome any suggestion that would lead to a saving of time, but this was a change made by the committee on procedure when the hon. member was not a member of the house. I regret the change, but it was made. However, if we could have unanimous consent to set up the committee on procedure perhaps we could get a few of these changes, including the admirable change suggested on a number of occasions by the Leader of the Opposition when he was prime minister, that questions on the orders of the day should be limited to half an hour, to which the official opposition of that time agreed.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, since the hon. gentleman, with his customary disregard of the rules, has brought me into the picture, let me say that hon. gentlemen opposite were the

[Mr. Hays.]

ones who brought about the expansion of the asking of questions in the house. They were the wrongdoers, and now they object to that which they themselves created.

Mr. Chevrier: What about your disregard of the rules?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, since the Leader of the Opposition has made this statement, it should be made perfectly clear that the limitation of questions to 30 minutes was agreed to by us when we were in opposition, and was not agreed to by the then prime minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure we do not want to extend the question period beyond four o'clock. The hon. member for—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I cannot allow that statement to go unchallenged. It is without any basis in fact.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, seeing that the Leader of the Opposition has made that statement, perhaps the leaders of the other two parties who were concerned with the negotiations at that time might have something to say on the matter.

Mr. Knowles: I apologize for making a suggestion to save time. Obviously such a suggestion only results in our losing time.

Mr. Speaker: I wish to accept the suggestion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**NUCLEAR WEAPONS—REQUEST FOR PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENT ON ACQUISITION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): I have a question for the Prime Minister arising out of his press conference of yesterday. Will the actual signing of a general bilateral agreement with the United States for the acquisition of nuclear warheads for the Canadian forces be the subject of a public announcement? Will the public be advised of the fact when nuclear warheads have been acquired in Canada?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, there will be a public announcement when the agreement is signed and all relevant information within the limits of security will be made known to the public.

(Translation):

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**STEPS TO PREVENT THREATENED SLOWDOWN
ACTION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Remi Paul (Berthier-Maskinonge-Delanaudiere): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Postmaster General a question.