

Inquiries of the Ministry

the blind pension and the disabled persons allowance, effective October 1? I think this would be of great interest to the people of the country, and I thought the Prime Minister might want to give some indication to the house.

Mr. Pearson: I do not mean to be difficult in this matter, but I think it would be most unwise from every point of view if I gave the impression that the government is going to make offers on these matters. There is going to be an exchange of views, and the agreement which I hope will be reached will result from an exchange of views. We would not want to make public before the conference, on either level of government, offers which would be interpreted on the other side as offers for bargaining purposes.

SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION OF ELECTION ACT
AMENDMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): In view of the fact that the government, according to the Prime Minister, is considering the introduction of legislation to lower the voting age to 18, and in view of the fact this has already been done or is contemplated by a number of the provinces, will the Prime Minister bring this matter before the federal-provincial conference next week so that a uniform voting age could be agreed upon and established throughout Canada? In addition, if an age of less than 21 is agreed upon by the provinces, will consideration be given to removing the legal disabilities of persons of that age; and by legal disability I refer, of course, to their inability to enter into contracts.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I agree that this matter, which is important, should be discussed with the provinces, but it is not on the agenda for next week. If an opportunity arises for that kind of discussion I will be glad to take advantage of it.

BREAD

PROTEST AGAINST PROBABLE PRICE INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Could he tell the house whether he has received a letter from the Quebec professional bakers' association protesting against a possible increase in the price of bread following Canada's large export of wheat? What does he intend to do in that regard?

[Mr. Douglas.]

[Text]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I do not recall having received such a letter, but I will be glad to look into it as soon as I get back to my office.

TRADE

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PERIOD UNDER
EXPORT CREDITS ACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce arising out of what was said earlier this afternoon. I should like to ask him if the government will give consideration to extending the period for which credit is granted under the export credits act, in order to assist Canadian exporters in world markets. I am thinking particularly of possible sales of rolling stock to Israel and other countries which would assist areas such as my own in so far as employment is concerned.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): These requests for credit go before the Export Credits Insurance Corporation regularly and before the government through me from time to time. We do everything possible to grant terms of credit that will enable us to get the business. So far as I am aware we are not losing any business at the moment because of a lack of credit.

[Later:]

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce arising out of his reply to the hon. member for Pictou. May I take it that the government, and E.C.I.C., will abandon the policy of not making loans under section 21A of the Export Credits Insurance Act unless the amount is \$2 million or more? Will the minister now consider the making of small loans under this legislation so as to encourage exports and manufacturing, particularly in the shipbuilding industry?

Mr. Sharp: That is a technical question. I should like to take it as notice and answer it tomorrow.

AIRPORTS

WINNIPEG—FACILITIES FOR IN TRANSIT
PASSENGERS ON INTERNATIONAL
FLIGHTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the unfortunate impression created on some 60 international air line passengers