

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Drew: I accept the reasons put forward by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) for the delay in giving a detailed explanation, but I would hope that he could answer now whether the right to use the Canadian flag has been withdrawn.

Mr. Abbott: So far as I am aware it has not.

WHEAT**QUESTION AS TO FARMERS SECURING BANK LOANS ON BASIS OF STORED WHEAT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance in connection with a situation existing in the western provinces where numbers of farmers are unable to secure loans on the basis of their stored wheat because the chartered banks feel that such loans should not be made. Is the minister in a position to advise whether the chartered banks may make such loans in order to meet current harvesting needs and the like to relieve a serious situation in various parts of the prairie provinces?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): My hon. friend was good enough to give me notice of his question. He will appreciate that his question is a legal one, but my recollection is that the banks are allowed to make loans under the provisions of the Bank Act and to take wheat as security under section 88.

Mr. Diefenbaker: May I ask a supplementary question. The bank managers say that under the agreement between the government and the chartered banks loans such as that are not to be made.

Mr. Abbott: Of course, that is incorrect.

FISHERIES**REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT OF PRICES SUPPORT BOARD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. J. Browne (St. John's West): I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries a question with reference to payments to Newfoundland fishermen recommended by a recent report of the fisheries prices support board. Does the minister intend to table that report?

Hon. R. W. Mayhew (Minister of Fisheries): I received notice of my hon. friend's question just before coming into the house. I might say that we received the report of the fisheries prices support board some time ago. We acted on the recommendations made and a press release was issued on October 4. If my

[Mr. Abbott.]

hon. friend has not seen that press release in his local papers I would be glad to let him have a copy.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): I have seen the press release by the minister, but I was wondering if he intends to table the report of the board setting out the reasons why the recommendations were made.

Mr. Mayhew: When the report is final that will be done.

INCOME TAX**RULING OF INCOME TAX APPEAL BOARD PERMITTING DEDUCTION OF CERTAIN EXPENSES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance? In view of a recent decision of the income tax appeal board to the effect that expenses of lawyers attending conventions of the Canadian Bar Association are deductible for income tax purposes, will steps be taken to extend the same privilege to trade unionists attending their conventions as well as to other comparable groups?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): I have had no notice whatever of this question and I suggest that it is one which might be placed on the order paper. In any case I shall take my hon. friend's question as a notice.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY**

The house resumed, from Friday, October 12, consideration of the motion of Mr. Robert Cauchon for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, before proceeding with the remarks that I propose to make on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, may I go beyond the usual formalities and extend my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Cauchon) and the seconder (Mr. Simons) of this address. The mover spoke of the unity, understanding and good will which he has encountered, sentiments which I am sure will be reciprocated by every member of this house. In addition he used both languages in a manner that was the envy of most of us here.

I wish also to say something about the remarks of the seconder. He spoke in terms of great optimism of the vast northern constituency which he represents. As one who