

Inquiries of the Ministry

in order to ship wheat out of our ports during winter time?

Mr. Pearson: As my hon. friend knows, we have icebreakers that are used for that purpose.

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): As a supplementary question to the Prime Minister, is he suggesting, although I am sure he is not, that icebreakers will be used to interfere with the traditional position of the Atlantic ports in handling wheat shipments?

Mr. Pearson: I quite understand my hon. friend's preoccupation with that question. I hope nothing I have said will add to his preoccupation in that regard.

Mr. Nowlan: Or to my worries.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State. In view of what has been said about icebreakers on the St. Lawrence, will the Secretary of State contact the Atlantic development board officials as soon as he can communicate with them, and try to arrange hearings in Saint John about this matter of winter navigation, which is now under consideration by the board?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to bring the hon. gentleman's speech to the attention of the board.

UNITED NATIONS

COMMONWEALTH SEAT ON SECURITY COUNCIL

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet may I answer a question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Oxford, who inquired about consultations now under way at the United Nations in preparation for the forthcoming debate on the question of enlarging the security council.

The principal aim of the Canadian delegation in these talks, and at meetings of the commonwealth group, has been to emphasize the importance of retaining the commonwealth seat. Pressure for enlargement has developed, notwithstanding Soviet opposition, from the newer member states of Asia and Africa. In their view geographical considerations should be accorded greater importance than others in determining the composition of the council.

This has an obvious threat to the seat which is normally held by a commonwealth member. We are doing all we can to drive

home the point that states which contribute significantly to the maintenance of peace and security should be assured of a reasonable prospect for equitable representation on the security council. The commonwealth has an outstanding record of contribution in this regard, and we believe that contribution deserves recognition in the allocation of seats on the security council.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

LANDS, FORESTS AND WATERS—INQUIRY AS TO MEETING OF COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. In his capacity as house leader could he make the necessary arrangements to call together the committee on lands, forests and waters while the members of the Northwest Territories council are still in the city? I am sure my hon. friend the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources would agree it would be a very useful and helpful exercise to have the members of the committee meet these distinguished northerners.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, as house leader I did everything I could in this regard by moving the motion drafted by the hon. member for Peace River. The committee has been in existence for months. I will try to act as an honest broker and see if we can do a little more to get the committee to meet.

PENSIONS

SUGGESTED REFERENCE OF PLAN TO HOUSE COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to that honest broker, the Secretary of State, the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, the house leader. Would the minister discuss with his colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the possibility of bringing before the house a motion to refer the subject matter of the Canada pension plan to an appropriate committee, without prejudice to the right of the legislation to remain on the order paper and without prejudice to the right of the house to proceed with the legislation at any time?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): No, sir. I think that would be a most undesirable thing to do on the eve of the federal-provincial conference. It seems to me, from what I read in the public press, that we have enough committees at the present time competing for the attention of hon. members,