

REPORTED TAKEOVER OF CANADIAN LOAN
COMPANY BY U.S. INTERESTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. Does the minister intend to investigate the takeover of another Canadian loan company, namely the Delta Acceptance Corporation Ltd., of London, Ontario, by the United States Avco Loan Company of New York?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker; there are no laws against that sort of thing.

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): As a supplementary question, would the minister consider investigating whether this takeover would have been necessary if the assets and resources of the now defunct Canada development corporation had been available?

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the hon. member means by "the now defunct", so I am not able to answer the question.

The figures on our current account show that our balance of payments situation remains a problem toward which we shall continue to work for a solution. The increase in the deficit was affected by the special factors mentioned, and is not to be regarded as disturbing.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF ROYAL UNION FLAG

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. Has the government received written authorization from Her Majesty the Queen for the usage of the royal union flag, generally known as the union jack, in the circumstances prescribed in the resolution on the order paper, order No. 44(B)?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. It would surely be inappropriate to make a request for any such authorization, if it were required, until parliament deals with the matter.

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it the government's intention to ask that the subject of a distinctive flag for the commonwealth be brought up at the forthcoming meeting of commonwealth prime ministers, or is there any talk now that the subject of such a distinctive flag will be brought up?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Pearson: I think we had better wait until we see what the Canadian parliament does with the resolution before we broaden its scope.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the deliberate use of the flag design favoured by the Prime Minister to harass and embarrass the Leader of the Opposition in western Canada—

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question is completely out of order. Perhaps the hon. member would care to rephrase it.

AGRICULTURE

ARDA—DELAY IN APPROVAL OF PROJECTS IN QUEBEC

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Hon. Théogène Ricard (St. Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Forestry a question. Can he tell the house why the federal government is delaying approval of the 116 rural development projects submitted by the government of the province of Quebec?

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, since ARDA was introduced, the government of the province of Quebec has submitted 116 projects at a total cost of \$8 million, which have been approved, the federal government's share being \$4 million.

Fourteen projects, at a total cost of \$7 million, implying a federal contribution of \$3,800,000, are now under consideration. Mr. Speaker, I think that if I listed all those projects I would immediately answer the hon. members question. Two of those projects were submitted on April 23, 1964; two on May 22; one on May 25; one on May 26; three on May 29; one on June 2; one on June 8; two on June 11, and the last one, yesterday, June 16.

Therefore, the greater part of those projects was submitted less than a month ago.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question. Why the delay in approving the 29 specific projects about which Mr. Courcy, minister of agriculture of the province of Quebec complained yesterday when he upbraided the Minister of Forestry for infringing on a field which did not concern him?