

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for information on a very important matter. If you will permit me to do so, I will phrase the question in a somewhat different way. I am searching for information. May I ask the minister this question. Is the Canadian mobile force, equipped with guns, tanks and close support aircraft for instant punitive action, the minister's proposed substitute for the antiquated method of gunboat diplomacy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the second question is no more acceptable than the first. I am sure the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre realizes that this type of question is much too general, concerns a general statement of policy, and to my mind is not the type of question that should be answered at this time.

Mr. Churchill: On a point of order, there has been a public declaration that there has been a complete change in Canada's foreign policy. I am seriously searching for information from the only person who can supply it, the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to help the hon. member. I suggest that perhaps he would be able to better appreciate the procedures of the house if he would place that question on the order paper, where it will be answered in due course.

PILOTAGE**INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to ask the Acting Minister of Transport. Could the minister give us any news concerning the whereabouts of the report of the pilotage commission? I think it has been under way for four years. Perhaps he could send a pilot to pilot it back.

INDUSTRY**POSSIBLE CHANGE IN CRITERIA RESPECTING DESIGNATED AREAS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry. Is the minister giving consideration to changing the criteria now in use for the selection or designation of areas of low economic growth?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me that this question is of a general nature, and I wonder whether it should be asked at this time.

Mr. Hales: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of very urgent importance to those in my particular part of the country who are waiting for a decision on this matter.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated before, a continuing review is being carried out with a view to establishing the appropriateness of the criteria.

NICKEL—REPORTED DEVELOPMENT OF BLACK MARKET

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the serious situation in respect of a black market which has developed in the sale of nickel on the Canadian market in the past few weeks, what action is the minister or the government taking to see that Canadian users of this important metal do not have to pay these inflated prices and as a consequence find themselves in a more non-competitive position in the world markets?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I believe this question should be placed on the order paper. If the hon. member feels there is an urgency, which I fail to see, I would be pleased to give the hon. member an opportunity to debate the question on the adjournment motion.

GRAIN**WHEAT—REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRICE UNDER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Now that western farmers are in the process of planning their spring seeding operations, could the minister inform us when he expects to be able to announce the new price schedule under the international wheat agreement?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we will do that at the very earliest opportunity. We are still in the process of negotiating a new international wheat agreement.