

Inquiries of the Ministry

may wish to take it as such. Will the appropriate minister inform the house what effect, if any, the recently concluded Japanese-United Kingdom trade agreement will have on Canada's exports of canned salmon in view of reports that larger quantities of Japanese salmon will be going to the United Kingdom?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to look into the question. As a matter of fact, Japan has always been a large supplier of salmon to the United Kingdom. I would think the answer will be that the treaty will have no effect, but I shall be glad to explore the matter and give a reply as prepared by my officials.

AGRICULTURE

**FREIGHT ASSISTANCE ON WESTERN FEED GRAIN—
MARITIME MARSHLANDS REHABILITATION
PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. T. Purdy (Colchester-Hants): May I direct a dual question to the Minister of Agriculture? First, on what date does the increased freight assistance on western feed grain, announced on February 28, become effective? Second, when may I expect a reply to my question of February 28 in connection with the possible expansion of the provisions of the maritime marshlands rehabilitation program?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): The instructions which were given were that the changes in the assistance were to go into effect immediately, as soon as they could be put into operation. I assume they have been put into operation before this, but I shall look up the date and get that information. I am not yet in a position to answer the other question fully.

FINANCE

**CANADA-UNITED KINGDOM LOAN AGREEMENT—
WAIVER OF INTEREST ENTITLEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Can the minister add anything to what has been previously said with regard to the request from Britain for a deferring of interest on the Canadian loan?

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot.

Mr. Macdonnell: Supplementary to my previous question to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, regarding the British loan, may

I ask now that he has had time to think it over if he could make an answer longer than one syllable?

Mr. Harris: No, Mr. Speaker.

**UNITED NATIONS—INQUIRY AS TO LOAN FOR
CLEARING OF SUEZ CANAL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Would the minister advise whether any portion of the \$1 million loan to the United Nations for the clearing of the Suez canal has been made, and if so what is the remaining balance of this loan?

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I shall have to make inquiries and report to the house.

**BANKRUPTCIES—INQUIRY AS TO STEPS TO PREVENT
INCREASING TREND**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Pallett (Peel): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the report contained in an issue by the dominion bureau of statistics on March 1 to the effect that commercial failures under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding-Up acts increased 29 per cent in the third quarter of 1956 compared with the same quarter of 1955, is the Minister of Finance considering taking any active steps to prevent this trend?

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance considers that this is additional evidence of too much credit in the country.

INCOME TAX

**STATEMENT CONCERNING REASSESSMENT OF
1950-1951 RETURNS**

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. Ellen L. Fairclough (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the assertion of the Minister of Finance on February 8, and subsequent information appearing in answer to question No. 137 of February 26, will the minister now instruct his department to close the files of taxpayers, where there was no evidence of fraud, on 1950 and 1951 income tax where reassessments were made in December of 1956, and where previous assessments had apparently been final?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is a question which is not asking for information; it is asking the minister whether he will take a certain action which is outlined by the hon.