

names of those who will be appointed to sit on the proposed Canadian Livestock Feed Board.

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): No, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

QUEBEC—DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING JURISDICTION OVER INDIANS AND ESKIMOS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Is there presently being undertaken or has there just been completed a study by officials in his department, or by someone appointed for that purpose, in conjunction with the province of Quebec or directly through his department, into the question of jurisdiction relating to native Indian people and Eskimos in the province of Quebec?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am rather happy that the hon. member has raised this question, because I read a press report which spoke of a secret document having been exchanged between or delivered to both the federal government and the government of Quebec. There were other sinister suggestions that an arrangement was going to be made, and I want to assure my hon. friend that there is simply no justification whatever for the inferences included in the report.

At present all this consists of is a working paper which has been delivered to each government as a basis for financial considerations in the transfer to Quebec of those services which are necessary in that part of Quebec due to the very considerable mining and other developments that are proceeding in that part of the province. The work of my officials and that of the officials of the province of Quebec is entirely consistent with the last statement I made in the house on this matter on March 4, 1964, at page 505, where I said provision was made to refer these principles and conditions to a joint committee of federal and provincial officials who are charged with the responsibility of preparing a draft agreement as well as the terms of reference for the commission which will be asked to receive the views and comments of the Eskimos. At that time we discussed—

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Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am afraid I must interrupt the minister. It seems to me the answer he is now giving is rather lengthy and more in the form of a statement which ought to be made on motions. Perhaps he might restrict the remainder of the answer he wishes to give to the hon. member.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, in a supplementary way may I ask the minister, because of the extreme importance of the matter and the necessity always of consulting the people affected, whether the minister would make a statement on motions tomorrow or at some reasonable time in the future so we could go into this question in as much detail as is possible.

Mr. Laing: This would be entirely agreeable to me, but I would have to make some study of the question because as yet I have not even seen the paper.

Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Has the minister received the report which is being prepared by Professor Hawthorn of the University of British Columbia, and if so would he table this in the house?

Mr. Laing: Yes; part 1.

FINANCE

MERCANTILE BANK—INQUIRY AS TO REPLY TO U.S. NOTES

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Prime Minister informed the house that he expected the cabinet today would approve of the reply to the two notes of the United States government in reference to the Mercantile Bank. Would the Prime Minister say whether the reply constitutes acceptance or rejection by Canada of the claim of the United States that the legislation ought not to be passed? Also will the Prime Minister say whether there has been any alteration in the expected nature of the reply to the notes in view of the evidence given by Mr. Rockefeller today, that the letter of intent to purchase the Mercantile Bank from the Dutch interests was given on June 26, 1963, 22 days prior to the warning given by the then minister of finance, the new Minister without Portfolio and chairman of the task force?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the first note was replied to many months ago. The reply to the second note was considered and agreed to by the