

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hope we will not engage in a discussion about individual offices. Perhaps even the Chair might have something to say about this.

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): A supplementary question for the Minister of Labour. Have the provincial departments of labour been consulted by the Unemployment Insurance Commission before these offices have been closed?

Mr. Nicholson: I would have to take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker. I know that discussions have taken place with some of the provincial governments, but I cannot say whether the question has been discussed with all of them. I will take the question as notice and answer it as soon as possible.

WATER RESOURCESUNITED STATES CONFERENCE ON
WATER FOR PEACE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. Has the government yet received a formal invitation to the water conference called by President Johnson for next May?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): I have not personally, Mr. Speaker. It may be that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has, but I have not personally received one.

Mr. Aiken: A supplementary question. In accordance with the preliminary advice that the minister has received, will his department be able to make full and complete submissions within the time indicated in the original notice?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the answer I gave yesterday is still valid today. The fears I expressed are also valid.

GRAINWHEAT—REQUEST FOR HIGHER
INITIAL PAYMENT

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Finance, as the minister responsible for matters having to do with the wheat board, whether any favourable consideration has been given by the wheat board to increasing the amount of the initial payment

for wheat delivered this year in view of rising costs and so on, to which the minister will no doubt allude when he speaks on the subject of inflation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, a question was asked several days ago by the hon. member for Medicine Hat on exactly the same subject. I said at that time that we had received representations on both sides of this question, some in favour of increasing the initial price and some not in favour. I said that the matter was before me since, as the right hon. gentleman knows, this is a matter for the governor in council rather than for the wheat board. The wheat board itself has also been considering the matter at my request.

Mr. Diefenbaker: And the matter is now before the governor in council to determine whether or not there shall be an increase. Can it be expected that the government will act with celerity in this regard?

Mr. Sharp: I gave a very candid reply to the question which was asked by the hon. member for Medicine Hat. I said that I did not expect there would be an early decision.

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): A supplementary question. Will the Minister of Finance take into consideration the recommendations which he might receive from the Minister of Agriculture in this regard?

Mr. Sharp: I always pay the greatest possible attention to the views of the Minister of Agriculture.

[Translation]

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSIONHULL, QUE.—INQUIRY AS TO LAND
ACQUISITION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Public Works?

In March 1966, the minister received several delegations from the city of Hull requesting that the federal government grant to the city of Hull some water lots located on the Hull side of the Ottawa River. Has the minister or his department reached a decision concerning those lots which the city of Hull would like to obtain from the department?

[English]

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I am not clear as to