

*Inquiries of the Ministry***GRAIN****WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO INTERIM PAYMENT ON 1955 CROP**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): Can the Minister of Trade and Commerce say whether an interim payment on the 1955 wheat crop can soon be made in order to improve the cash position on the prairies and avert any precipitous drop in farm income?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Under the terms of the Canadian Wheat Board Act, such a payment cannot be made until it is recommended by the Canadian wheat board, and I have received no recommendation to date.

Mr. Argue: Under the special circumstances, I wonder whether the minister would consider communicating with the wheat board in order to see whether such a payment could in fact be made?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I shall be glad to look into the matter.

TRANSPORT**INQUIRY AS TO USE OF CANADIAN PACIFIC REFRIGERATOR CARS BY CANADIAN NATIONAL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Montgomery (Victoria-Carleton): I should like to ask the Minister of Transport this question. Is the Canadian National Railways permitted to use Canadian Pacific Railway refrigerator cars for the movement of perishable goods, such as potatoes, during the period in which the C.P.R. is closed down as a result of the present strike?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): The hon. member was good enough, Mr. Speaker, to send me notice of his question and I have made some inquiries from the Canadian National. They advise me that such C.P.R. refrigerator cars as were on the Canadian National system at the time of the strike will continue to be used by Canadian National in the usual manner, but they will not move onto their own lines refrigerator cars at points not ordinarily served by the Canadian National.

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF CONTROLLER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Johnson (Kindersley): In view of the termination of the duties of the former transport controller at the conclusion of navigation last December 17, can the minister make an announcement that an appointment has been made to fill this important post?

[Mr. Lesage.]

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): Regardless of the impression of the hon. member, the resignations of the transport controller and of the deputy transport controller were received only in the last week of December. These resignations have not yet been acted upon by the government; consequently, I am not in a position to make any statement concerning their successors.

Mr. Johnson (Kindersley): Am I to assume that there will be an appointment made at a very early date?

Mr. Marler: I think I should say this, that the transport controller carried out his duties with outstanding success in the face of very substantial criticism from the hon. gentleman opposite. In the first place, I think it is going to be exceedingly difficult for the government to find a transport controller of the calibre of Mr. Milner. In the second place, I think in view of the criticism expressed by my hon. friend it will be very difficult for us to find someone who will be willing to accept the duties.

Mr. Argue: Nonsense.

Mr. Johnson (Kindersley): What am I to conclude from that? Am I to conclude the government is not planning on making an appointment to this post?

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION**INDIAN AFFAIRS—SITUATION ON HOBBEMA RESERVE, ALBERTA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. A. Smith (Battle River-Camrose): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Would the minister give a statement as to the future plans of his department for many Indian families living on the Hobbema reserve in Alberta who have allegedly been deprived of their treaty rights and the privilege of residing on that reserve?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the minister does not admit for one second the accuracy of the allegation made by the hon. gentleman, and therefore there is no occasion for any kind of statement.

Mr. Smith (Battle River-Camrose): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister not aware of the fact that over 100 Indians have been requested to leave that particular reserve within the next few weeks?

Mr. Pickersgill: The minister is quite well aware of what actually has happened on the reserve, yes.