

COMBINES

PULPWOOD—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION INTO
ONTARIO PRICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice whether he or his combines investigation officers have received any petitions or requests for an investigation in northwestern Ontario similar to the one conducted two years ago in Quebec and eastern Ontario into the prices of farm or settlement pulpwood.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I do not recall having received any such petition myself, at least not in recent months, but I shall be glad to inquire to see whether any have been received by the director and advise my hon. friend. I am afraid I will not be able to do that until the house meets again some time in January, but I will have the advice available at that time.

FINANCE

POSSIBLE RESTRICTION ON U.S. DEFENCE
PURCHASES IN CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. M. Batten (Humber-St. George's): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the government been given any assurances by the United States government that their dollar gap worries will not affect United States defence purchasing in Canada and, if so, what is the nature of those assurances?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member would repeat the first part of his question. There were a couple of words I did not hear.

Mr. Batten: Surely, Mr. Speaker. Has the government been given any assurances by the United States government that their dollar gap worries will not affect United States defence purchasing in Canada and, if so, what is the nature of those assurances?

Mr. Pickersgill: Dollar gap worries.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I am afraid the hon. member will have to explain his question more fully. Whose dollar gap worries is he talking about?

Mr. Pearson: The United States.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I think the hon. member's question, concerning as it does communications passing between Canada and the United States in this respect, should be directed to my colleague the Secretary of

Inquiries of the Ministry

State for External Affairs. The hon. member is probably aware of a statement that appeared in the press two or three days ago, I believe, indicating that the policy of the United States government in relation to limiting purchases abroad was not to apply to Canada.

Mr. Batten: Mr. Speaker, if my question should be more properly directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs I shall be only too happy to direct it to that hon. gentleman. Would the minister like me to repeat the question?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I am not any brighter today than the Minister of Finance.

REFERENCE TO INCREASE IN GROSS
NATIONAL PRODUCT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask the Minister of Finance whether, when he said last evening that the efforts of the government to contain inflation were at last achieving some measure of success, he was aware that according to the report of the dominion bureau of statistics issued this morning—

Mr. Speaker: I wonder whether the Leader of the Opposition would not consider that this is a matter which could more properly be raised in the debate which is before the house. It seems to arise out of the first speech in that debate.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, my purpose in raising it before the debate is to make sure that the minister was aware of the position when he gave us that information, in contrast to the facts that appeared this morning in a bureau publication. I want to get that matter cleared up.

Mr. Speaker: If it is a question of obtaining factual information from the minister it would be in order to ask the question.

Mr. Pearson: My question is, was the minister aware when he made that statement that, according to this official publication issued this morning, half of the increase of 2.9 per cent in our gross national product during the first nine months of 1960 was due to price increases?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it is quite obvious that this is the sort of subject that should be the subject of debate for which the house has provided an opportunity under its rules. I