

Inquiries of the Ministry

FEDERAL DISTRICT COMMISSION—ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

Mr. Aylesworth:

1. During the past two years, what lands or buildings have been acquired by the federal district commission in (a) city of Ottawa; (b) county of Carleton; (c) county of Russell; (d) city of Hull; (e) county of Hull; (f) county of Gatineau, giving legal description and total acreage of the property in each case?

2. From whom was such property acquired?

3. What was the total price paid to the vendor or any other persons in respect to the acquisition of each such property?

4. For what purpose, either present or future, was each such property acquired, and to what use is each such property presently being put?

5. At the present time, has the federal district commission any agreements of sale or options for the acquisition of other property or has it commenced expropriation proceedings for the acquisition of other property in any of the aforesaid cities or counties?

6. If so, what is the legal description and total acreage of each such property?

7. From whom is each such property to be acquired?

8. What is the total price payable to the vendor or any other person under any such agreement of sale or option in respect of the acquisition of each such property?

9. What is the total price which has been offered to the owner of any such property in respect of which expropriation proceedings may have been commenced?

10. For what purpose, either present or future, is each such property to be acquired, and to what use will each such property be put?

NATIONAL DEFENCE

IRREGULARITIES AT PETAWAWA—PROGRESS OF INVESTIGATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. S. Harkness (Calgary East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Defence. Is it a fact that Mr. George S. Currie, who was appointed to conduct an inquiry at Petawawa, is now in Europe? If so, is the inquiry proceeding, and when may a report be expected?

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): The inquiry is proceeding now, and has been proceeding since the day after he was appointed. Members of the staff are at work in Ottawa and elsewhere. They are engaged in collecting information, making checks, and otherwise continuing their investigation. I asked a senior partner of the firm today when we could expect a report, and he said he was not in a position to say.

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): May I repeat that part of the question asked by the hon. member for Calgary East (Mr. Harkness) which was not answered by the Minister of National Defence, and inquire where Mr. Currie is now. May I also ask what part Mr.

Currie has played up to date in the investigation and what part he will have personally in the report which it is expected will be made.

Mr. Claxton: I am sorry, I thought I had answered the first part of the question but now that the hon. member calls my attention to it I find that I did not. Mr. Currie is in England. He started the investigation by giving instructions to his partners on the way in which it should be carried on. They have since been carrying on with the investigation. Mr. Currie indicated to me that it will be some time before the information necessary for him to make his report will be collected by them. This is the way in which chartered accounting and legal firms frequently work on operations of this size. Mr. Currie will return in time to make full use of the information obtained so that he may complete his study and make a report. It will be his report on the basis of his own study of the information.

Mr. Fleming: Does the minister happen to know when Mr. Currie will return to Canada?

Mr. Claxton: No.

OATS

QUESTION AS TO INTERIM PAYMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Can he say whether an interim payment on oats will be made by the Canadian wheat board? If so, when can producers anticipate receiving the payment?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): An interim payment on oats was not made at the time interim payments were made on wheat and barley, for the reason that a very small proportion of anticipated deliveries had been made at that time. The situation has not changed materially since. Deliveries are still a very small proportion of the expected. The summer market for oats is a dangerous market, as I said when discussing the subject in the house a few days ago. I doubt if an interim payment can be made until the end of the crop year. But an interim payment will be made as soon as the board can be reasonably assured that a payment can be made without danger to the solvency of the pool.

WHEAT

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT—PROGRESS OF LONDON DISCUSSIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. Earl Catherwood (Haldimand): I should like to ask a question of the Minister