

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has indicated he will ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to consider whether he has anything to report which will meet with the approval of the opposition. Will the Prime Minister also ask the minister to consider whether he has anything to report which will not meet with the approval of the opposition, which is more important?

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): A supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Were the following subjects on the agenda: the withdrawal of our forces from NATO, acceptance of deserters by Canada and the recognition of communist China?

Mr. Trudeau: We did not propose any of those subjects, Mr. Speaker. If the hon. member's friends in the United States demand that they be put on the agenda, of course we will be willing to discuss them.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. As these meetings have always been held to smooth out possible rough spots between the two countries, would it not have been an excellent opportunity to explain our rather weak position on these matters to our conferees in the United States?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

NATIONAL CAPITAL**POLLUTION OF AREA WATERWAYS**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion as the minister responsible for affairs in the national capital area. Having in mind the reported closure of certain waterways in the national capital area as the result of water pollution, will the minister try to expedite the correction of this condition as he outlined in his plans for the national capital area a week or two ago?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): This is something we are looking into, Mr. Speaker.

GRAIN**WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO ACCEPTANCE BY CANADA OF LOWER INTERNATIONAL PRICE**

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, in view of the continuing absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Agriculture, is it convenient for the Prime Minister to inform [Mr. Trudeau.]

the house whether Canada is considering agreeing to lower the international price of wheat?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Responding for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker, let me say that today is not a convenient day. However, I shall take note of this question, which will be answered at the earliest possible opportunity.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS**DOMINION DAY—ANNOUNCEMENT RESPECTING HOUSE OBSERVANCE**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, following the enunciation of the program for the house for today and tomorrow, which would indicate we are going into next week, what is the government's attitude on whether the house will sit on Dominion Day?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, Dominion Day is not only a holiday for all Canadians but a holiday under the rules of the house. We intend to abide by the rules of the house.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**BEEF—PASSING ON OF LOWER PRICE RECEIVED BY PRODUCER**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that prices for finished steers have dropped 5 cents a pound or \$5 a hundredweight on the live cattle market in western Canada, can the minister tell the house whether this reduction in price to the farmer has been reflected in prices to the consumer?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member the question as asked is argumentative.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**CURTAILMENT OF SATURDAY WICKET SERVICE**

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Postmaster General. Has he had time to study the very much criticized curtailment of Saturday wicket service in post offices across Canada? Is the minister now in a position to inform the house whether complete service will be restored?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): No, Mr.