

Inquiries of the Ministry

such as Moose Jaw is not being utilized to a great extent, as every effort is being made to move grain off the prairies.

Accordingly, all available railway equipment is being fully used to move grain in volume from the country elevators direct to the lakehead and seaboard positions in order to meet sales commitments. The direct movement of grain from country elevators to export positions is a more economic use of railways and boxcars, and there is also a saving to the producer of six cents a bushel which is incurred when interior terminals are used on a temporary basis.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**SPONSORING OF NEWS BROADCASTS BY COMMERCIAL INTERESTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, on Thursday last I asked the Secretary of State whether she could inform the house whether any changes were being contemplated in connection with C.B.C. news broadcasts which would make possible the sponsoring of those broadcasts by commercial interests. She said she would be happy to find out and report to the house. I am wondering whether she can do so today.

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am informed that there is no intention on the part of the C.B.C. to change its policy in this regard. Apparently speculation has arisen regarding the advisability of allowing commercial enterprises to sponsor newscasts, because there has been some discussion about the advisability of selling time to commercial enterprises in times adjacent to newscasts.

TRADE**PARTICIPATION BY UNITED KINGDOM IN O.E.C.—PROTECTION OF CANADIAN INTERESTS**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Trade and Commerce mentioned, in a passing way during his statement at the opening of the house today, the desire of the United Kingdom government to seek admission to the European Common market. He said he had some discussions in this regard with the British representative. Did he place before

[Mr. Winters.]

that British representative the need, in any negotiations which do take place with members of the European common market, for preserving and protecting Canadian agricultural interests? Unless specific terms are placed in the agreement accepting Britain as a member of the common market, serious results for Canadian agriculture may follow.

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Indeed I did, Mr. Speaker. As my statement indicated, the Chancellor of the Exchequer did renew the assurance that was previously given, that commonwealth interests would be protected to the greatest extent possible. There will, of course, be close consultation as negotiations develop. More specifically, we hope that at the meeting of the joint ministerial committee which is now scheduled for January in London, this will be one of the items on the agenda.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I thank the minister and ask him at the same time whether any indication was given that President de Gaulle had changed his attitude toward British admission?

Mr. Winters: That remains to be seen, Mr. Speaker.

FARM MACHINERY**REQUEST THAT INQUIRY BE EXPEDITED**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. I do not like to see a question period go by without the minister being asked a question. Will he make strong representations to Dr. Barber, chairman of the commission investigating prices of farm machinery, to speed up his inquiry? This inquiry is moving at a very slow pace.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that I suffer no righteous indignation when passed by during the question period. I shall be pleased to draw the hon. member's remarks to the attention of the commission. In all fairness, I think the important thing is that the commission be permitted to do its job in an objective fashion without political pressure. I agree that time is important, subject to that basic consideration.