

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I am afraid the rule must apply to the hon. member who has the floor, as it applied to the hon. member who spoke previously. Telegrams or newspapers must not be read when asking questions before the orders of the day are called.

**Mr. Goode:** There is a feeling in British Columbia that there have been discussions between the government and United States interests regarding the disposition of natural gas. Have there been any discussions in this regard?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** I know of no discussions having to do with the export of natural gas to the United States in return for the export of natural gas from the United States to any other part of Canada. I can say positively that no such discussions have taken place.

**NATIONAL DEFENCE****TRANSFER OF ARMY PERSONNEL—HOUSING ACCOMMODATION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. H. Ferguson (Simcoe North):** I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Defence. Almost a month ago I asked whether any relief was to be given to members of the army who were ordered to report for duty in the capital city of Ottawa. I asked whether they would be receiving relief because of the exorbitant rents they are now being compelled to pay when they arrive here with their families. I have received no reply to my question. This is a serious matter—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Ferguson:** I would interject this one point: One young member of the army—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member has asked his question.

**Mr. Ferguson:** Will something be done immediately by the Department of National Defence to aid members of the army in the matter of accommodation when they are ordered to report to Ottawa for duty, so that they will not have to spend about \$700—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to the rather complete answer the hon. member received when he asked the question the first time.

[Mr. Goode.]

**WHEAT****ANSWER TO QUESTION AS TO MAKING CHURCHILL A DELIVERY POINT UNDER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Melfort (Mr. Wright) asked me a question with reference to the port of Churchill and its status as a basing point under the international wheat agreement. I have now obtained particulars from our representative at the international wheat conference in London. The port of Churchill is not a base point under the international wheat agreement, but arrangements have been made with the international wheat council that will enable Canada to utilize this port.

The arrangements are covered by resolutions passed at the twenty-third meeting of the executive committee held in London on January 31, 1950. The resolution adopted reads as follows:

That No. 1 Manitoba northern wheat in store port Churchill, Manitoba, be designated a description of wheat under article 6, paragraph 4, and that the advisory committee on price equivalents be requested to advise the executive committee on appropriate maximum and minimum price equivalents for such description of wheat, it being understood that if Canada is requested to deliver wheat at maximum prices and/or if Canada requests importing countries to accept wheat at minimum prices the Fort William-Port Arthur prices basis should apply.

In accordance with this resolution Canada may negotiate and complete sales under the international wheat agreement for Churchill shipment at prices in line with c.i.f. prices at destination as compared with St. Lawrence shipment. If such sales can be made, Canada would secure the advantage of cheaper overall forwarding costs as the result of using this port. However, if Canada is called upon for wheat at the international wheat agreement maximum price or desires to put wheat at the international wheat agreement minimum price, we can only deliver wheat from Churchill at the Fort William-Port Arthur basic maximum or minimum prices as set out in the agreement.

**Mr. Smith (Calgary West):** Very simple, isn't it!

**TRANSITIONAL MEASURES ACT, 1947****CONTINUATION OF CERTAIN ORDERS AND REGULATIONS**

**Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance)** moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a measure to amend the Continuation of Transitional Measures Act, 1947, to provide that the act shall expire on the 30th day of April, 1951.