

Inquiries of the Ministry

all agree that agreements of this kind, providing as they do for co-operation on a reciprocal basis, will come to play an important role in the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy with consequent benefit to our friends and ourselves, and that such agreements will provide an additional market for Canadian uranium.

Finally, these intergovernmental agreements will not in themselves constitute contracts for the export of uranium from Canada. Rather they will establish conditions satisfactory to the two governments concerned under which such contracts may be concluded on a commercial basis between the appropriate governmental agencies in each country. The governmental agencies which will be responsible for the detailed operation of this agreement between West Germany and Canada and the negotiation of any contracts arising under it report to parliament through my colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the question addressed to me by the hon. member I am happy to make this statement in relation to the use of nuclear power for peaceful uses.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, will the Secretary of State for External Affairs say whether or not requests have come in from at least three other friendly countries, not referred to in my hon. friend's statement, altogether apart from the possible arrangements made in Switzerland?

Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac): I know of two inquiries, and negotiations are going on. I ask permission of the house not to divulge the names of those countries. I can state, however, that there was hope that such an agreement might be negotiated with France, but they informed us that they were not interested in obtaining Canadian uranium on this basis.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. Are there any negotiations between Canada and the Euratom group, as a unit, regarding this matter?

Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, the Euratom group will become fully established for the first time on January 1, 1958.

FINANCE**INQUIRY AS TO ISSUING OF BILINGUAL GOVERNMENT CHEQUES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Wilfrid LaCroix (Quebec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. My question is, have steps been taken by the Department of

Finance to have bilingual cheques issued by the department in all parts of Canada?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. LaCroix: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Finance did not take advantage of the opportunity of answering my first question—

Mr. Fleming: I did answer the question plainly.

Mr. LaCroix: —my supplementary question is—

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member has another question he may put it. He began by commenting on the answer he received. He did have a reply, and he is not in a position to ask for more.

Mr. LaCroix: It is a supplementary question. Is it not true that the interpretation of the existing statutes has permitted, without passing a new act, the issuing of bilingual cheques by the Department of Finance in the province of Quebec? Are not these statutes the same for the other provinces of Canada?

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, I commented upon a similar question from the same hon. member two days ago. This question would involve a matter of legal opinion, and any answer I might give on that point would be clearly out of order.

Mr. LaCroix: Why didn't you answer my first question?

Mr. Fleming: I did answer the hon. member's first question. He should not be making statements of that kind, since they are quite untrue.

Mr. Speaker: I have already advised the hon. member to that effect.

TRADE**WHEAT—PROVISION OF CREDIT FOR POLAND AND SPAIN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Johnson (Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce. I am sorry I was not able to give him notice. My question is based on a press dispatch which appeared in this morning's paper entitled, "Wheat Sale Dependent Upon Credit". Can the minister inform the house what steps have been taken by the government to meet the credit requirements of Poland and Spain so the sale of a considerable quantity of wheat, estimated at between seven and ten million bushels, may materialize?