

Inquiries of the Ministry

government is now awaiting the reaction of the various provinces to the discussions. I do not think we will be in a position before next September to make any final decision. I might say, however, that when the disability allowance program was announced we estimated that we would have on strength about 25,000 disability pensioners. I am happy to say that as a result of the initiative taken by the government that figure has been exceeded.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**NATO—DISPATCH FROM CANADA OF CF-100 SQUADRONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. R. Pearkes (Esquimalt-Saanich): May I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence? He has not had one for a long time.

An hon. Member: He has his wrong ear to you.

Mr. Pearkes: Are the CF-100 squadrons which are being sent to NATO to be in addition to or to replace the squadrons of the air division now in Europe?

Hon. R. O. Campney (Minister of National Defence): The number of squadrons in Europe at any given time will remain at 12 as at present. The four CF-100 squadrons which will replace four Sabre jet squadrons will do so in succession, but the over-all number will remain the same.

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION**INDIAN AFFAIRS—QUALIFICATION FOR GUARANTEED BANK LOANS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Bryson (Humboldt-Melfort): I wonder whether the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration is prepared to answer the question I asked last Friday regarding the eligibility of Indians to apply for bank loans against wheat stored on reserves?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): I have given some consideration to this question and it is a good thing I did, because it is exceedingly complicated. As I am sure the hon. member knows, section 88(1) of the Indian Act provides that real and personal property belonging to an Indian, which property is situated on a reserve, cannot be attached or seized except at the instance of another Indian, and I do not think the chartered banks were chartered as Indians.

If I may summarize the information I have, it would appear that if an Indian stored his

[Mr. Martin.]

grain off the reserve and applied for a loan he would be eligible like anyone else but that the banks might properly say, if the wheat were stored on the reserve, and they could not realize, that the conditions did not meet with the terms of the bank loan legislation.

Mr. Fulton: Does this mean that with respect to bank loans the minister is an Indian giver?

PIPE LINES**TRANS-CANADA PIPE LINES—OPTION TO PURCHASE PIPE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce if he has yet been able to obtain a copy of Trans-Canada's option on the pipe in the United States to which we both referred last Friday?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, it had not come to hand when I left the office this morning. I will table it as soon as it does. I have asked for it.

NORTHERN ONTARIO PIPE LINE CORPORATION**CONSTITUTION OF CROWN COMPANY TO CONSTRUCT PIPE LINE, MAKE SHORT-TERM LOANS, ETC.**

Mr. Speaker: Before I leave the chair, may I say that the house is in such good humour today that I hate to go.

Mr. Knowles: You'll be back.

The house resumed, from Monday, May 14, consideration in committee of the following resolution—Mr. Howe (Port Arthur)—Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the constitution of a corporation to be known as Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation for the purposes, amongst others, of constructing, maintaining and operating a natural gas pipe line between the Ontario-Manitoba border and Kapuskasing, Ontario, and of leasing with an option to purchase such natural gas pipe line to Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited and carrying out such leases, including the disposal by the corporation of such pipe line in connection with such purchase option, and to provide that the Minister of Finance may lend money to the corporation for such purposes.

To provide also that the corporation may, on behalf of Her Majesty, out of moneys advanced by the Minister of Finance, make short-term loans to Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited for the construction of a natural gas pipe line from a point on the Alberta-Saskatchewan border to the vicinity of Winnipeg, such loans not to exceed in the aggregate eighty million dollars or ninety per cent of the cost of construction of the said