

Inquiries of the Ministry

council, which is the usual way of appointing an executive assistant. It is probably the type of order in council that even the Leader of the Opposition approves.

Mr. Hahn: I am quite aware that the minister has an executive assistant at this time. The question I ask is, is it expected that Mr. O'Leary will replace the present executive assistant in the near future?

Mr. Sinclair: I do not know how often one has to use simple English. I said I have an executive assistant who was appointed by order in council to be my executive assistant and that is what he is; that is the job he is discharging at the present time.

Mr. Hahn: That does not answer the question, though.

Mr. Sinclair: I will answer a simple question. I am not going to hire the hon. member for New Westminster as my executive assistant after his defeat on June 10. I shall repeat exactly the same answer I gave: that I am well pleased with the executive assistant I have, and have no intention of making an appointment to replace him after June 10.

Mr. Hansell: You may not be here yourself after June 10.

Mr. Hahn: Mr. Speaker, may I ask another question. If the present executive assistant is to be replaced I would like the minister to say yes or no.

Mr. Sinclair: I have said I have appointed an executive assistant who is a permanent appointment, as permanent as executive assistants are. There is no intention to replace him, as I said, by the hon. member when he is looking for employment after June 10.

TRADEPOLAND—INQUIRY AS TO FINANCING
OF WHEAT SALE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. M. Nicholson (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Yesterday the minister made the very welcome announcement that sales of wheat to Poland for delivery this year are going to be doubled. However, information from Winnipeg indicates that only about one-third of the 300,000 tons said to have been sold for delivery this year has actually been sold on account of difficulties with the banks.

Could the minister indicate whether the commitment he gave on March 27 to the hon. member for Assiniboia, that difficulties with regard to financing are not going to stand in the way of selling our wheat to Poland, still holds good?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The hon. member is using his position in parliament to obtain information for a small broker in the city of Winnipeg, and I object to giving that information, because I do not think that to do so would help the sale of Canadian wheat.

Mr. Nicholson: The minister stated yesterday that 300,000 tons had been sold, but according to the information I have, only one-third of that amount can be disposed of because the banks are asking 12 per cent interest for financing the sale, and the deal is not going through.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I can say that the 300,000 tons of wheat have been purchased by Poland from the Canadian wheat board. More I do not wish to say.

AIRPORTS

MALTON—PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John B. Hamilton (York West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Did the minister's statement a couple of days ago in Toronto that an announcement would soon be made about the development of Malton airport mean that the final agreement has been signed with the city of Toronto and, if so, when will major construction start?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I can add anything to what I said the other day in Toronto, that an announcement would be made shortly.

Mr. Hamilton (York West): Surely the minister can tell us whether or not the actual agreement has been signed with the city.

Mr. Marler: If I had had notice of this question I could have made inquiries. The agreement with the city of Toronto has reached a point where, if it has not been signed, signature should not be very long delayed.

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCEINQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE MEETING OF
PRIME MINISTERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has any date been fixed for the conference of commonwealth prime ministers? I would also ask him to comment on a dispatch from London this morning to the effect that June 26 has been established tentatively as the