

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that competitive trading has compelled the Canadian Wheat Board to sell wheat at 4 cents a bushel below the proposed floor in the new international grains arrangement, 1967, is the government initiating discussions with other wheat exporting countries with a view to trying to get some agreement to remain within the price range set out in the proposed agreement? If so, with what countries have these discussions been held and what response has been received?

Mr. Winters: Mr. Speaker, not all grades of wheat are trading below the minimum agreed to at Geneva. I think the hon. member is referring particularly to No. 1 northern which has shown the result of highly competitive market conditions recently. I can assure the hon. member that we are discussing this problem with other wheat producing and exporting countries.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

STATEMENT BY BOARD RESPECTING ACTION BY MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. In light of the startling criticism of the Secretary of State contained in the statement read by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation President Alphonse Ouimet on behalf of the directors of the C.B.C., has the government asked for the resignation of these directors?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Johnston: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is any reply contemplated by the government and, if so, what is the nature of that reply?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I am examining the statement at the moment.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether by his last reply he intends the house to understand that he will be making a statement on this matter in the very near future.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I will decide that after examining the statement very carefully.

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Mr. Fulton: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member for Kamloops that things are getting a little too complicated. The hon. member for Yukon asked a supplementary which had nothing to do with the matter being discussed at the moment. The hon. member for Kamloops wants to return to that question. We will return to him eventually.

[Later:]

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, the supplementary question I wanted to ask was whether the Prime Minister is satisfied that leaving the matter in its present state with this controversy raging will not create great difficulties in obtaining reputable people to serve on the board in the future.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is too pessimistic in this regard.

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN BENEFIT PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alcide Simard (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

In view of the excessive increase in the cost of living, does the government realize the necessity of increasing unemployment insurance benefits?

[English]

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): If the Minister of Finance were here, Mr. Speaker, I should probably address this question to him. Perhaps it ought to be addressed to the Prime Minister in any event. Have the provinces indicated that they will ask the federal government at the financial conference this week to share with them in the responsibility for delaying medicare? If so, how many provinces are making such a request and will the federal government go along with them or not?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge to that effect, but I shall be glad to discuss the