

Inquiries of the Ministry

be harvested. That is the problem, I believe, rather than the problem of farm stored grain.

Mr. Argue: I am afraid the minister did not answer my second question. Will the government consider an interim payment on the 1951 crop at an early date? Then I have a further supplementary question. Do I take it from the minister's answer to my first question that the government has decided not to make an advance payment on farm stored grain?

Mr. Howe: In reply to the second question first, I made no such statement. I said that question was being studied with a view to making arrangements to finance grain that could not be harvested. I said nothing more, and I hope my hon. friend will read nothing more into that statement.

The answer to the second question is, an interim payment on wheat of the 1951 crop will be made at the usual time, which is usually about February 1.

Mr. Wright: May I follow that up with just another question? Sometime ago the minister said that early in November he would hope to be able to make an announcement with regard to the final payment on the 1950 wheat pool.

Mr. Howe: I still hope to make that statement shortly. The difficulty is that the wheat crop of last year involved about 350 separate grades. The accounting problem of putting a price on all those grades has proved enormous. The staff have worked night and day. I have not received the final results, but as soon as I do I will announce it in the house.

PENSIONS**INQUIRY AS TO RECOVERY BY MUNICIPALITIES TO COMPENSATE FOR PAST RELIEF PAYMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the minister's attention been called to the fact that certain municipalities are recovering from pensions granted to aged citizens of this country certain relief payments that had been made to those citizens prior to the time that they were granted old age pensions?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): My hon. friend was kind enough to give me notice of his question, and in reply I would say first of all I am not aware of any such contemplated action. I am also not sure as to whether my hon. friend is speaking of payments made under the Old Age Security Act, the Old Age Assistance Act, or the Old Age Pensions Act; but in any

[Mr. Howe.]

event, I should like to make it clear that all of these acts contain a clause which provides that no pension payment can be attached, assigned or seized in satisfaction of any claim against a recipient. This is provided directly in the Old Age Security Act and in the Old Age Pensions Act, and it is provided indirectly in the Old Age Assistance Act through the requirement contained in the federal act that the provinces must give an undertaking to include such a provision in their provincial legislation.

CHINA**INQUIRY AS TO PROHIBITION OF EXPORT OF CANADIAN FUNDS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough West): I should like to direct a question to the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Finance. The question is similar to the question I asked on January 31, 1951. Owing to the reports that communists are continuing to blackmail Canadians of Chinese descent who have friends and relatives in China, in order to protect these Canadians has the government given consideration to prohibiting the export of Canadian dollars and other funds to communist China and to countries behind the iron curtain?

Mr. James Sinclair (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance): I will take that as a notice.

KOREA**INQUIRY AS TO NUMBER OF CANADIANS TAKEN AS PRISONERS OF WAR**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gordon Graydon (Peel): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. During the Korean campaign have any Canadians been taken as prisoners of war?

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): I have not had notice of this question, but speaking from recollection I do not think any have been captured. If any have been captured, it is I think only one, but I will have to verify that.

Mr. Graydon: The reason I asked the question is the controversy now raging with respect to the treatment of soldiers of the United Nations generally who have been taken as prisoners of war.

Mr. Claxton: I have a return on my desk, and I will look it up and let my hon. friend know later in the afternoon.