

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, November 22, 1951

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO EUROPEAN DEFENCE
—REFERENCE TO STATEMENT OF MINISTER
OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): May I inquire of the Prime Minister whether he is in a position to make any statement with regard to the subject raised yesterday having to do with the announcement of the Minister of National Defence?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I am in a position to repeat what I said yesterday, that I did not believe that the Minister of National Defence had made any such statement. As soon as it was possible to do so the remarks of the leader of the opposition were sent to Paris by dispatch, but it so happened that the Minister of National Defence and the Secretary of State for External Affairs had already left Paris for Rome before the dispatch arrived there. The Minister of National Defence was communicated with by telephone this morning and had not yet received the dispatch but was making every possible endeavour to get it. He is to send me a dispatch from Rome just as soon as he sees the text reporting what was attributed to him.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS—CONCURRENCE IN
FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. A. F. Macdonald (Edmonton East) presented the first report of the standing committee on industrial relations, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

RADIO BROADCASTING—CHANGE IN PERSONNEL

Mr. W. G. Weir (Portage-Neepawa) moved: That the name of Mr. Knight be substituted for that of Mr. Knowles on the special committee on radio broadcasting.

Motion agreed to.

94699—79½

WHEAT

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL BOX CARS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. A. Cruickshank (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I should like to know—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cruickshank: I should like to know if there will be made available sufficient box cars for our prairie wheat.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

INQUIRY AS TO PRINTING OF AUDITOR GENERAL'S
REPORT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Finance whether it is expected that the Auditor General's report and the public accounts which he tabled about two weeks ago will be printed and available for general distribution at the time we consider the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act amendment so that we will have the most recent report of the Auditor General before us.

Mr. James Sinclair (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the public accounts and the Auditor General's report were tabled on October 31 as required by statute. Unfortunately the king's printer finds himself unable to turn out the report for at least another two weeks. It is the largest single item the king's printer has to deal with. When we have a fall session we always have the trouble of having to advance the date of tabling the report to October 31. The bill to which the hon. member has referred incidentally contains a provision to extend that date to December 31. The king's printer is doing the best he can to hurry this along but it might be as much as two weeks before this printing is completed.

Mr. Fulton: Could we have an advance copy of the Auditor General's report?

Mr. Sinclair: The Auditor General's report is available but it will be another two weeks before the public accounts part will be ready for general circulation.