

shape or form. May I ask the Prime Minister whether the Canadian government, as such, is informed when a decision of this kind by the NORAD commander is taken, and if so through what channel?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Information comes to the chiefs of staffs committee, and through the Canadian chiefs of staffs to the government, in this case to the Acting Minister of National Defence and to the Prime Minister.

### PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE

REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON STATEMENT BY  
PREMIER OF MANITOBA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Samuel Boulanger (Drummond-Arthabaska):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture or in his absence to the acting minister. Has he any announcement to make to the house in view of the statement attributed to the premier of Manitoba in a report appearing in the *Montreal Gazette* of July 11, that he expects the federal government will immediately make several changes in the Prairie Farm Assistance Act to bring it more into line with Manitoba conditions?

**Mr. Speaker:** I would advise the hon. member that we discussed that matter or similar matters for some time last night. As I understand it, the question relates to the policy of the federal government being in line with something said by the premier of Manitoba; is that it?

**Mr. Boulanger:** We did not discuss the Prairie Farm Assistance Act last night, but the question of deficiency payments. My question concerns an announcement by the premier of Manitoba to the effect that the Prairie Farm Assistance Act will be amended to bring it into line with Manitoba conditions.

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Acting Minister of Agriculture):** I have not seen the article in question, Mr. Speaker, but I shall bring this question to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture. I believe he will be back on Friday.

### COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT

BRITISH COLUMBIA—REPORT ON PRODUCTION  
AND SALE OF FISH

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Minister of Justice. I hope notice of it reached him in sufficient time. Would the minister inform us when it is expected that the report of the commission on restrictive

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

trade practices regarding the production, purchase and sale of fish in the province of British Columbia will be made public?

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice):** I regret that I received notice of this question too late to enable me to have more than a very quick check made in the department, but that check so far indicates that we have not yet received this report, though I understand that the inquiry is being proceeded with as expeditiously as possible. I am not able to say, and will not be able to say until I receive the report, when it will be made public, because the nature of the report itself will have a bearing on that matter.

### POWER

SAINT JOHN, N.B.—STATUS OF AGREEMENT  
RESPECTING THERMAL PLANT

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. In view of recent press reports that tenders are being called for the thermal plant at Saint John, New Brunswick, can the minister tell us if an agreement has yet been reached between the federal government and the provincial government?

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** The actual agreement for the Saint John plant between the federal government and the government of New Brunswick has not yet been signed.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Does the minister know whether it is true that tenders are being called?

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** If the report is correct, it is my first awareness of it.

### HOUSING

N.H.A.—INTEREST RATES ON LOANS FOR  
DOWN PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. In the light of the fact that legislation ties National Housing Act interest rates to rates paid on government securities, and in view of the recent rise in interest rates on government securities as announced by the Minister of Finance, is the minister in a position to assure the house and the country that no further increase is going to be permitted in interest rates on National Housing Act loans for the next several months? I am asking this so